July 22, 1958 G. C. HENRY 2,844,347

PORTABLE LECTERN OR THE LIKE

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Fig. 1.

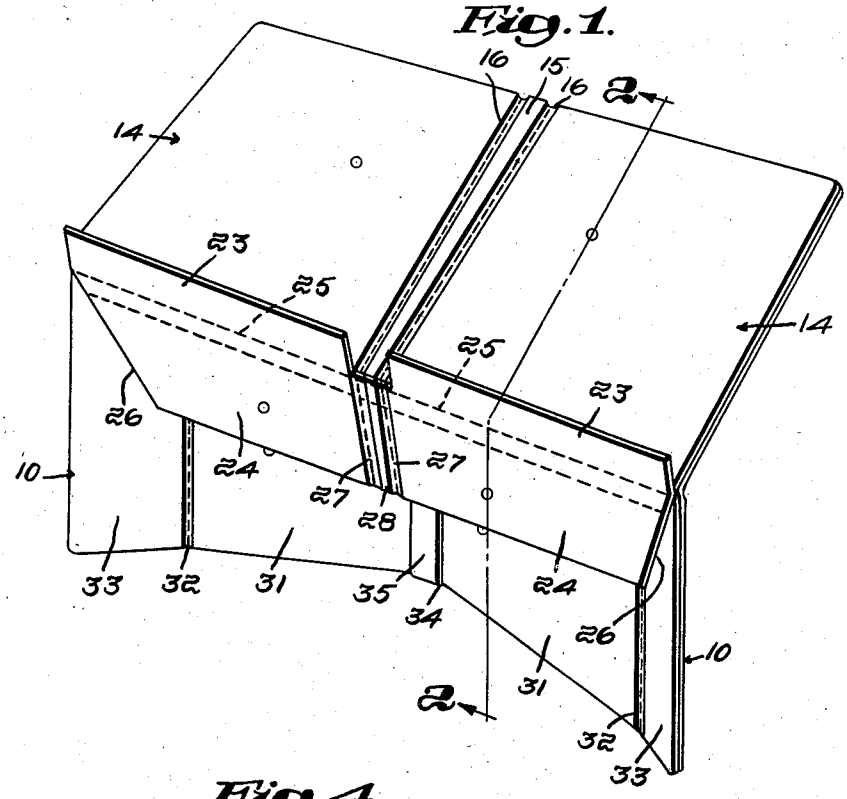
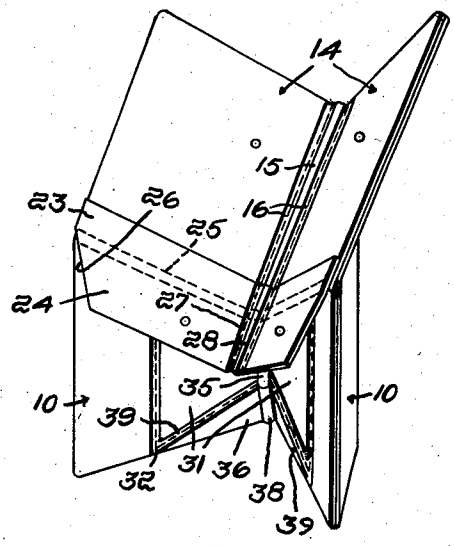


Fig. 4.



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PORTABLE LECTERN OR THE LIKE

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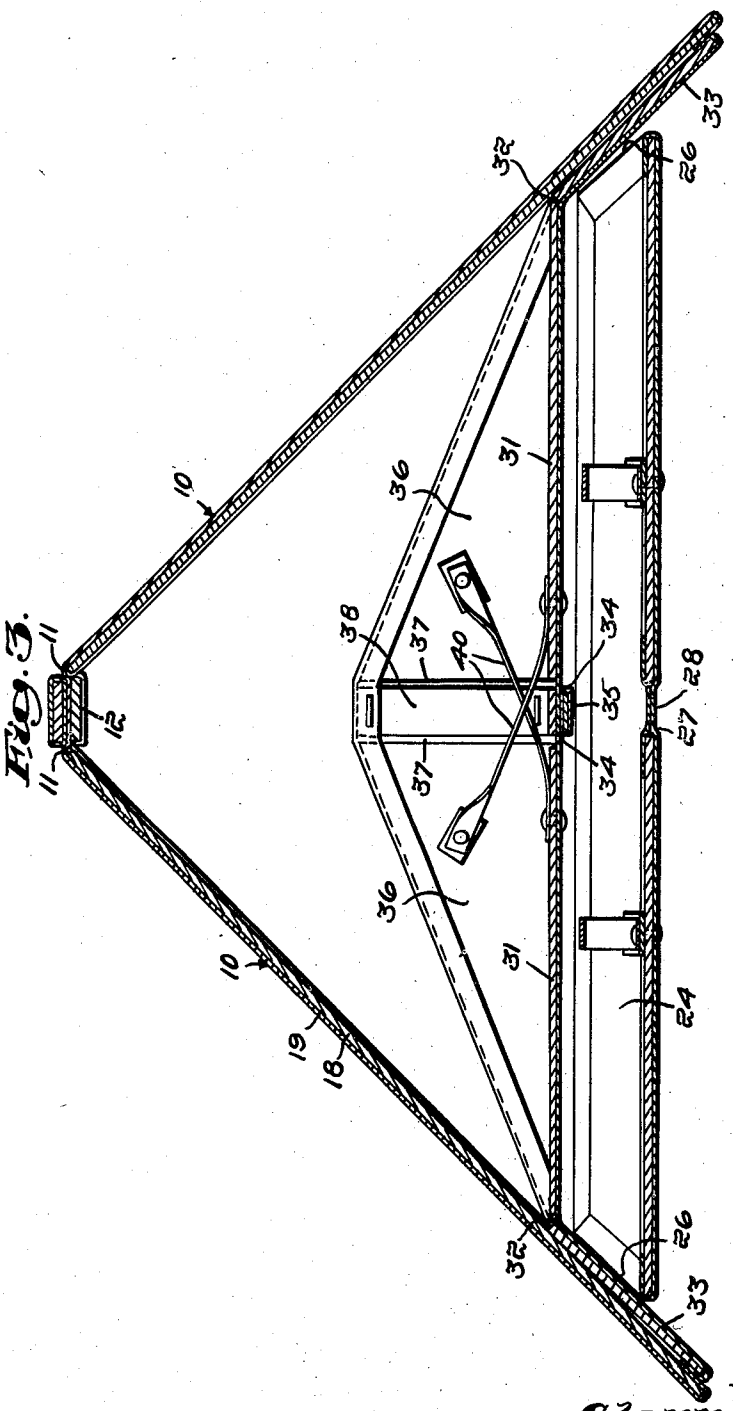


Fig. 3.

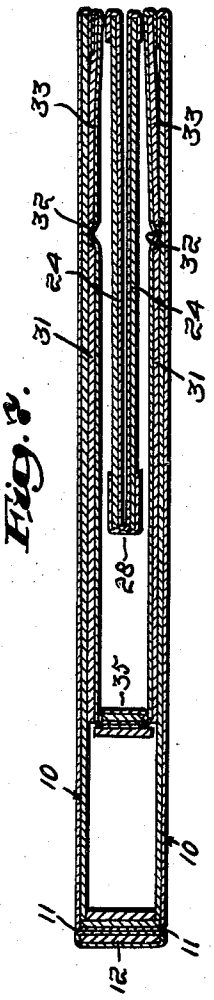


Fig. 4.

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Fig. 5.

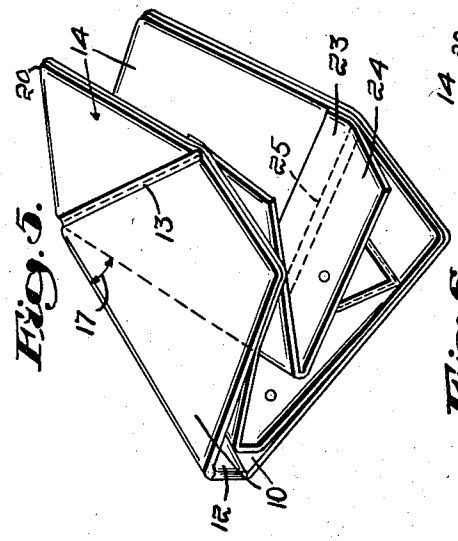


Fig. 6.

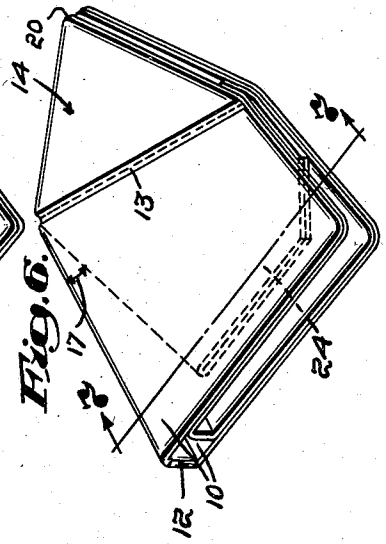
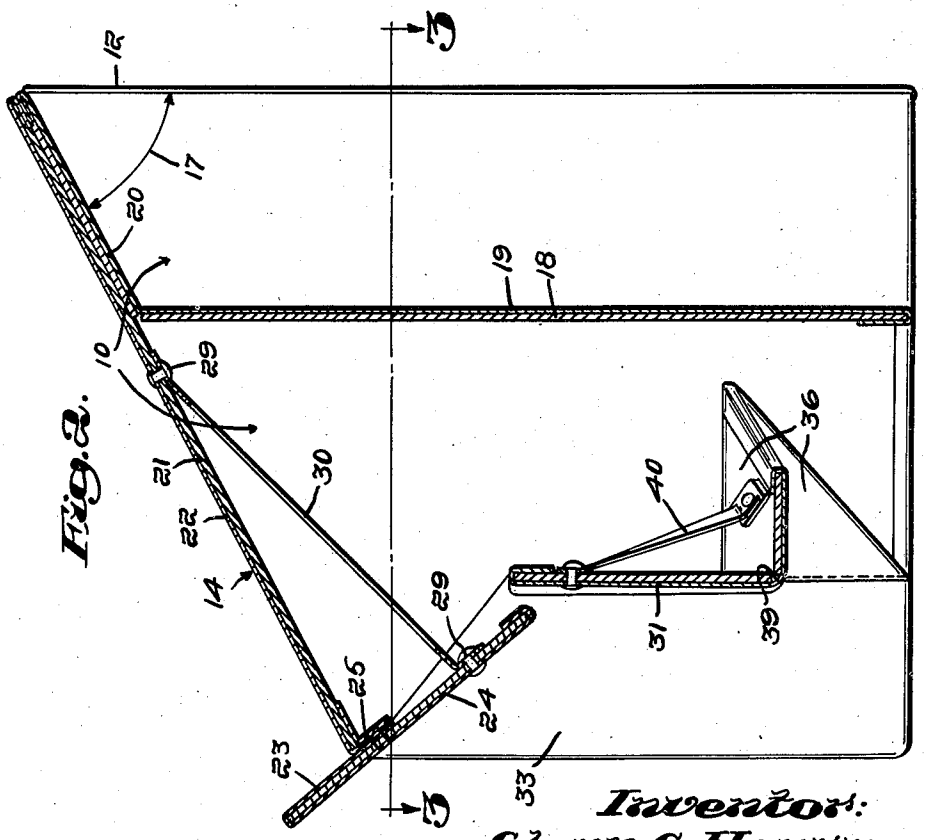


Fig. 2.



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2,844,347

PORTABLE LECTERN OR THE LIKE

Glenn C. Henry, Otisfield, Maine

Application November 18, 1954, Serial No. 469,664

3 Claims. (Cl. 248—198)

This invention relates to portable lecterns, music racks, and the like.

In my Letters Patent of the United States No. 2,587,316, dated February 26, 1952, there are described and claimed article and like supports which include covers and which can be erected and collapsed simply by opening and closing the covers. The present invention has, as its principal objective, the provision of portable lecterns and the like having that generally stated characteristic.

In accordance with the invention, a portable lectern or like support comprises a pair of hinged covers and a pair of hingedly connected supports each hinged to a respective one of the covers to open and close in response to the opening and closing of the covers. To accomplish this result, the hinge axis between the supports and the hinge axis between the covers intersect and define an angle which increases as the lectern approaches its erected position.

Hinged to the supports are ledge establishing members adapted to swing out of contact therewith into a ledge defining angular relationship. Preferably, each of these members also includes a portion engageable with a respective one of the covers, to be braced thereby when the lectern is erected. Preferably, the covers are also interconnected by means imparting rigidity to the erected structure and conveniently of the type described and claimed in the aforesaid patent.

In the accompanying drawings, there is shown, as an illustrative embodiment of the invention, a lectern meeting these and other of its objectives and from which the several novel features and advantages of the invention will be readily apparent.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a portable lectern shown as fully erected,

Fig. 2 is a section, on an increased scale, taken along the indicated lines 2—2 of Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 is a section, on the same scale, taken along the indicated lines 3—3 of Fig. 2,

Figs. 4, 5, and 6 are perspective views showing, respectively, an almost erected, an almost collapsed, and a fully closed position of the lectern, and

Fig. 7 is a section, on the scale of Figs. 2 and 3, taken along the indicated lines 7—7 of Fig. 6.

In the embodiment of the invention shown in the drawings, two covers **10** are joined along corresponding edges by a double hinge defined by the hinge connections **11** and the spacer **12**. The covers are adapted to swing along the thus generally defined hinge axis between the closed position shown in Fig. 6 and the open position depicted in Fig. 1. The upper edge of each cover is downwardly inclined away from the cover hinge axis towards the bottom edge thereof as indicated by the hinge connection **13** between each such edge and a support **14**.

Each support **14** is shown as rectangular with the fold line defined by its hinge connection **13** extending from corner-to-corner thereof. The two supports **14** are joined

together by a double hinge established by the spacer **15** and the hinge connections **16**.

It will be apparent that as the covers **10** are swung into their open or closed positions, the supports **14** are brought into the plane defined by the hinge connections **13** or into a folded position between and partly enclosed by the covers **10**. From a comparison of Figs. 2, 5, and 6, it will be noted that the hinge axis common to the covers **10** and the hinge axis common to the supports **14** and generally defined by the hinge connections **16** intersect to define an angle **17** increasing as the lectern approaches its erected position.

While the hinge connections may be of any type and the various parts joined thereby may be made from a wide range of materials or combinations thereof, the construction detailed in the drawings has proved to be acceptable in production and use. For that reason, and as shown in Figs. 2, 5, and 6, each cover **10** is shown as consisting of a main layer **18** and a decorative layer **19**. In addition, each cover **10** and the corresponding support **14** include a common extension **20** equal in area to the portion of the supports **14** that is exposed when the lectern is collapsed. In addition, each support **14** consists of a main layer **21** and a decorative layer **22**. By this construction, as will be apparent from Figs. 5 and 6, the outer surface of each cover **10** and the exposed portion of the corresponding support **14** lie in the same plane when the covers **10** are closed together.

In order that the supports **14**, when the covers **10** are opened, may serve to support a book, papers, and the like, their lower edges are provided with ledges **23** which include integral extensions **24** and have hinge connections **25** with the edges of the supports **14** that are lowermost when the lectern is erected. It will be noted that the ledges **23** may be swung from a position, in which they engage the outer surface of the supports **14**, into a position in which, as is apparent from Figs. 1 and 2, they are disposed at a suitable retaining angle with respect thereto. When thus positioned, the ledge extensions **24** engage the inner surfaces of the covers **10**. As shown in Figs. 1, 3, and 4, each ledge extension **24** has an edge **26** formed for linear engagement with a respective one of the covers **10** when the lectern is erected. As a consequence, the supports **14** are adequately braced by the covers **10**. The proximate edges of the extensions **24** are joined by a double hinge defined by hinge connections **27** and the spacer **28**.

Secured as at **29** to the under surface of each ledge extension **24** and the corresponding one of the supports **14** is an elastic member **30** (see Fig. 2). These members **30** become operative, once movement of the ledges out of contact with its support is initiated, to pull and yieldably maintain the extensions **24** into contact with the covers **10**.

Means are preferably employed to ensure that the erected lectern is suitably rigid in use. Such means comprise a first pair of members **31**, each having a hinge connection **32** with a layer **33** secured to a cover **10** and a hinge connection **34** with a spacer **35**. A second pair of members **36** is provided and these have hinge connections **37** with a spacer **38**. The members **31** and **36** are joined by hinge connections **39** downwardly and outwardly inclined from their proximate ends. From a comparison of Figs. 2 and 4, it will be observed that the general hinge axes between the members **31** and **36** intersect and define an angle which increases to an approximate right angle as the lectern is erected. In order to ensure that members **31** and **36** assume a lectern bracing relationship to each other, each of the members **31** is connected by an elastic member **40** to the one of the members **36**, to which it is not directly hinged.

With reference to Fig. 1, it will be noted that the spacer

15 tapers inwardly with its wider end being proximate to and of the same width as the spacer 12. The spacer 28 defines a continuation of that taper, which is necessary to ensure proper folding of the lectern into the relationship illustrated by Fig. 7 from which the elastic members 30 and 40 have been omitted to clarify the drawings.

From the foregoing, it will be apparent that portable lecterns and the like in accordance with the invention are well adapted to meet all requirements of use since all parts are securely interconnected and coact to provide a structure that, while adequately sturdy in use, is capable of being quickly and easily collapsed and erected.

What I therefore claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A portable lectern and the like comprising a pair of hinged covers, a pair of supports each hinged to a respective one of said covers at an angle to the hinge axis of the covers, said supports also being hinged together with the axis thereof disposed with reference to said other axes to open and close in response to the opening and closing of said covers, and ledge means hinged to said supports for movement into a ledge defining angular relation thereto and including portions then engaging said covers as braces, and elastic members connecting said ledge means to the support to which it is hinged and operable to yieldably urge said ledge means into said angular relation once their movement has been initiated.

2. A portable lectern and the like comprising a pair of hinged covers, a pair of supports each hinged to a respective one of said covers at an angle to the hinge axis of the covers, said supports also being hinged together

with the axis thereof disposed with reference to said other axes to open and close in response to the opening and closing of said covers, and ledge means hinged to said supports for movement out of an inoperative position into a ledge defining angular relation thereto, a first pair of members hinged to said covers and to each other, and a second pair of members hinged to respective ones of said first pair and to each other with their mutual hinge axes intersecting at an angle the mutual hinge axis of the first named pair.

3. A portable lectern and the like comprising a pair of hinged cover members, a pair of support members, each hinged to a respective one of said cover members, at an angle to the hinge axis of the cover members, said support members also being hinged together with the axis thereof disposed at an angle to the mutual hinge axis of the cover members, a first pair of brace members hinged to the covers and to each other, a second pair of brace members hinged to each other and to corresponding ones of said first named brace members, the mutual hinge axes of the two pairs of brace members intersecting at an angle, and elastic means interconnecting the brace members of the two pairs thereof and operable to yieldably urge them into a position in which said angle is increased when their unfolding has been initiated.

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