No. 733,860. PATENTED JULY 14, 1903.

G. MENDEL.

PICTURE FRAME OR EASEL.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 22, 1902.

NO MODEL. 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

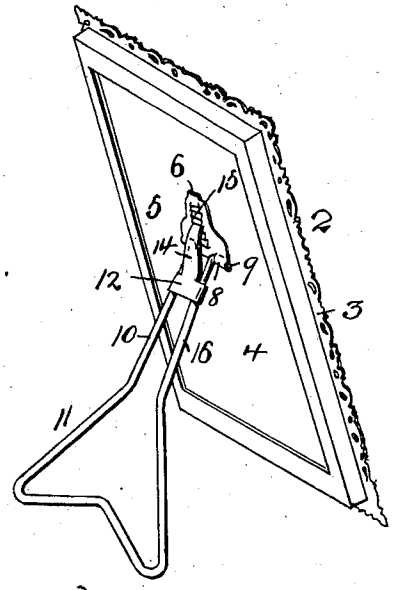


Fig. 3.

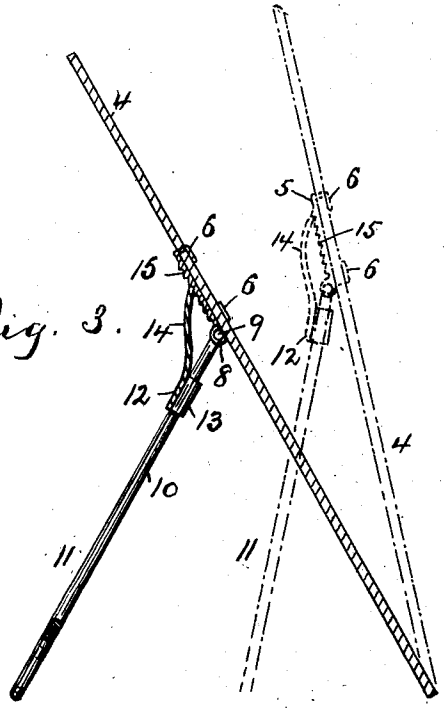
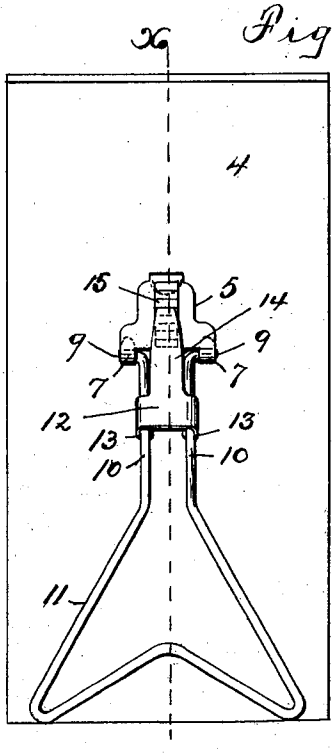


Fig. 2.



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THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

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NO MODEL. 2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 4.

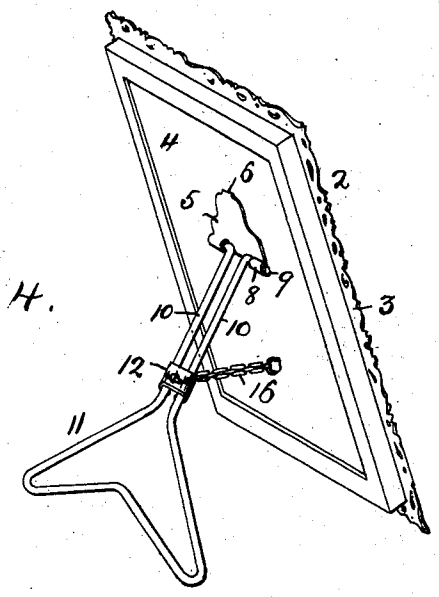


Fig. 5.

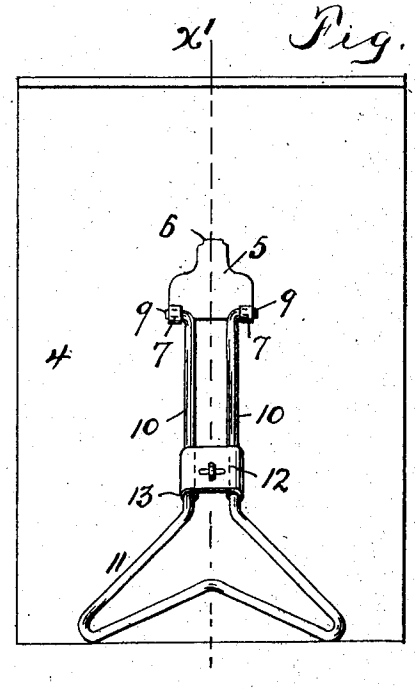
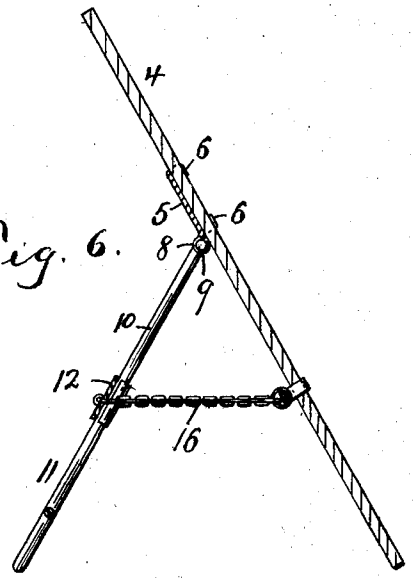


Fig. 6.



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No. 733,860. Patented July 14, 1903.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE MENDEL, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO SCHIMPER COMPANY, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, A FIRM.

PICTURE-FRAME OR EASEL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 733,860, dated July 14, 1903.

Application filed December 22, 1902. Serial No. 136,109. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE MENDEL, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, in the borough of Manhattan and State of New York, have invented and produced a new and useful Improvement in Picture-Frames or Easels; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to numerals of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

The objects of this invention are to provide for standing picture-frames, small fancy easels, mirrors, and the like a back support or brace which shall be adjustable to tip the easel at different angles, to thus adapt one size and style of support to various sizes of pictures, to secure a simple and cheap construction, and to obtain other advantages and results, some of which will be referred to hereinafter in connection with the description of the working parts.

The invention consists in the improved picture-frame or easel and in the arrangements and combinations of parts of the same, all substantially as will be hereinafter set forth and finally embraced in the clauses of the claim.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, in which like numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts in each of the several figures, Figure 1 shows in perspective my invention in its preferred form. Fig. 2 is a rear elevation of the same; and Fig. 3 a vertical central section as on line *x*, Fig. 2. Figs. 4, 5, and 6 are similar views, respectively, of a modified construction sometimes preferred.

In said drawings, 2 indicates a picture-frame of any approved style, providing at the front an ornamental border 3 and adapted to receive at the rear a backing 4, which is usually of stiff pasteboard or the like. To this backing 4 my improved support or brace is attached. Said support comprises an attaching-plate 5, preferably of thin sheet metal, with integral spurs 6 6 6 at its edges, adapted to be forced through the backing 4 and clenched on the other side, as shown in Figs. 3 and 6 more especially. At the lower edge of said attaching-plate 5 are ears 7, curled to form pivotal bearings 8, as is common in the art of sheet-metal working, for the opposite outwardly-turned extremities 9 9 of the upper ends 10 10 of a doubled wire or loop, forming a leg 11. The bottom part of said leg is spread to afford a wide foot, and the upper end portions 10 10, above referred to, are substantially parallel to each other. Upon said parallel upper end portions 10 10 of the leg 11 is a slide 12, comprising a piece of sheet metal extending transversely of said wires 10 10 and having its ends wrapped loosely thereabout, as at 13. Said slide confines the ends 10 10 against their normal tendency to spring outwardly apart, and thus a friction is produced between said slide and its slideway sufficient to hold the slide in whatever position it is left.

In the preferred construction an integral tongue 14 extends upward and outward from the top edge of the slide 12 and is adapted at its free upper extremity to engage a vertical series of ratchet-teeth 15, stamped in the attaching-plate 5 or otherwise formed thereon. Obviously upon shifting the slide 12 to cause the tongue 14 to engage a higher or lower part of the series of ratchet-teeth 15 a corresponding change in the inclination of the picture-frame is secured, as clearly shown in Fig. 3.

Under some conditions I may, instead of employing the tongue 14 and ratchet-teeth 15, connect the slide 12 to the backing 4 by a chain 16 or the like, and obviously in this case the inclination of the frame or easel will vary with the position of the slide. Other modifications may also be employed without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the claims, and I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself by the positive descriptive terms herein except as the state of the art and the scope of said claims may require.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim as new is—

1. The combination of a backing 4, a resil-

ient loop or leg of wire having parallel end portions pivoted at their extremities to the backing, a slide on said parallel portions, and means carried by said slide for limiting angular movement of the leg with reference to the backing.

2. The combination of the backing 4, an attaching-plate adapted to be secured thereto and providing a series of stops, a leg or brace hinged to said attaching-plate and having resilient parallel portions, and a slide on said parallel portions having a tongue or extension adapted to engage said stops.

3. The combination with a sheet-metal plate providing at its edges attaching-lugs 6 and pivotal ears 7 and having at its middle portion a series of stops, of a leg comprising a piece of resilient wire having its end portions bent parallel and pivoted at their extremities in said ears, and a slide upon said parallel portions having a tongue adapted to engage said stops.

4. The combination of a backing, a leg of resilient wire hinged to said backing and providing substantially parallel portions tending to spring apart, a slide hooked at its opposite ends around said parallel portions of the leg, and means upon said slide for limiting angular movement of the leg with respect to the backing.

5. The combination with a backing presenting outwardly a vertical series of teeth, of a leg comprising a piece of resilient wire bent to form at its upper part parallel portions normally tending to spring apart and being hinged to said backing, a slide comprising a piece of sheet metal wrapped at its ends loosely around said parallel portions of the leg and limiting their tendency to spring apart, and a tongue projecting from said slide to engage said series of teeth on the backing.

6. The combination of a backing, a wire loop or leg hinged to said backing and having parallel portions in resilient relation, a slide mounted on said resilient parallel portions to move longitudinally thereof, and means upon said slide for limiting the angular movement of said leg with respect to the backing.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of December, 1902.

GEORGE MENDEL.

Witnesses:
RUSSELL M. EVERETT,
C. B. PITNEY.