

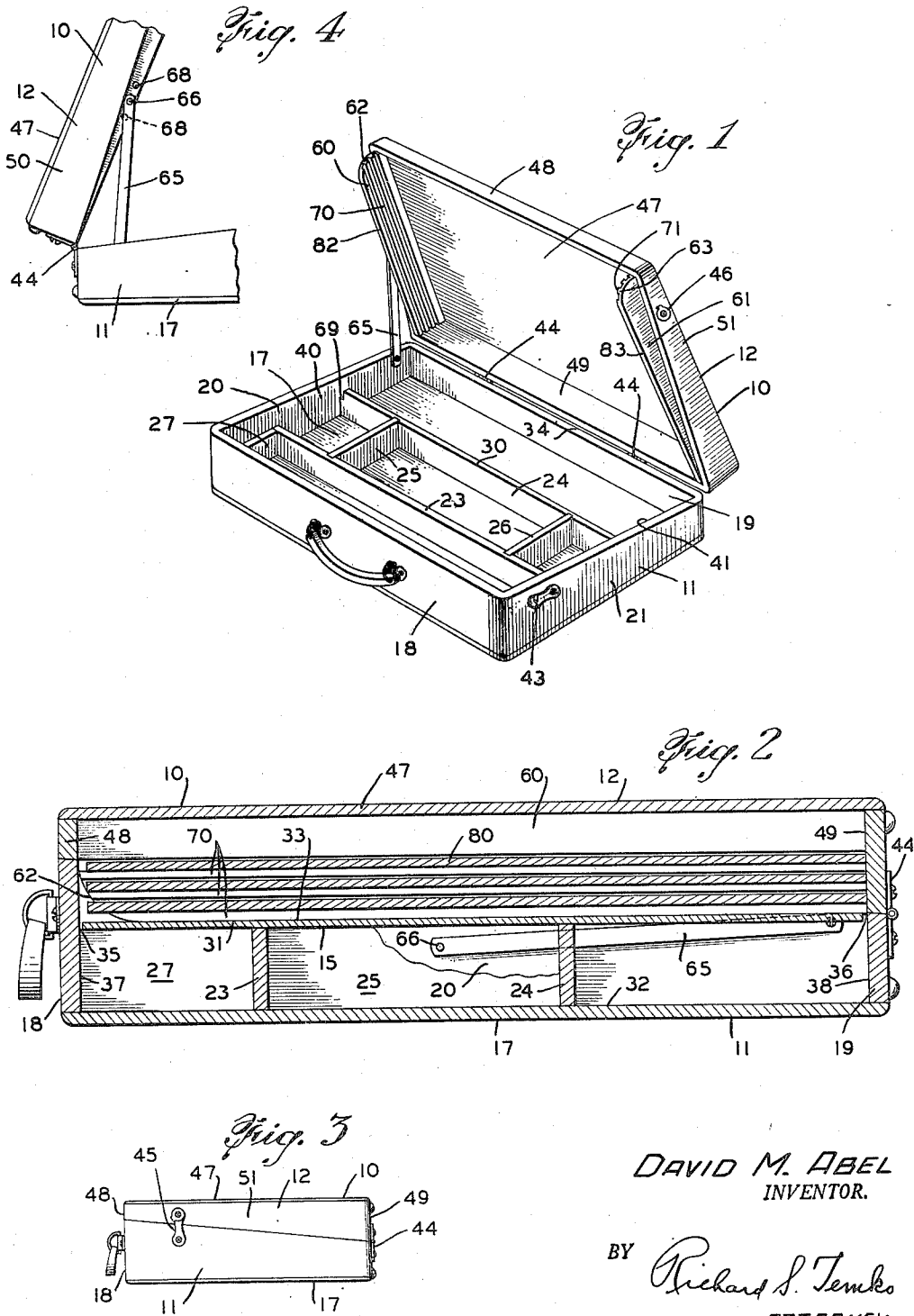
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ARTIST'S SKETCH BOX

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ARTIST'S SKETCH BOX

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This invention relates generally to containers, and more particularly to an improved artist sketch box. Boxes of this class are used to contain tubes of pigment, small bottles of medium, brushes, palette knives, palettes, canvas panels and the like and are particularly desirable from the point of view of convenience and portability.

Size of the box is frequently dictated by the size of the panels which are enclosed therein and it is desirable that the box be only slightly larger than the size of the panels which it contains. For this purpose the front wall of the cover has been heretofore connected to the top wall of the cover in a hinged manner.

It is among the principal objects of the present invention to provide sketch box construction in which only a single set of hinges is required for the interconnection of the box parts.

In the use of sketch boxes, it is desirable that the painting panels may be quickly and easily removed or replaced. In accordance with the present invention it is necessary only to open the main cover element in order to have the painting panels right at hand.

The main body of boxes of this kind carry many loose small articles and is usually closed by an auxiliary cover which takes the form of a rectangular palette. In prior art constructions, one longitudinal edge of the palette is hooked beneath projections extending forwardly from the inner surface of the rear wall of the body element, while the forward longitudinal edge of the palette is maintained in position by a rotatable latch.

Another object herein lies in the provision of sketch box structure wherein the palette element may act as an auxiliary cover for the main box body in which however, said palette is maintained in the closed position thereof by palette latching elements secured to the cover element.

Another object herein lies in the provision of sketch box structure affording the aforementioned advantages, yet which may be manufactured at lower cost.

These objects and other incidental ends and advantages will more fully appear in the progress of this disclosure and be pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings in which similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several views:

Fig. 1 is a view in perspective of a sketch box with the cover element in an opened position thereof. In this view the palette element and painting panels have been removed for the purpose of clarity.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary transverse vertical sectional view of the box shown in Fig. 1 with the cover element in a closed position, and

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the palette element and painting panels in position.

Fig. 3 is an end elevational view as might be seen from the right of Fig. 1 with the cover element in the closed position thereof.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary and elevational view as seen from the left of Fig. 1 showing the cover element supporting strut in an erected position thereof.

In accordance with the invention, the artist sketch box is generally indicated by reference character 10 and includes broadly a main body element 11, a cover element 12, a palette element 15 and a pair of palette latching elements 60 and 61.

The main box element may be composed of any suitable material such as wood and includes a bottom wall 17, a front wall 18, a rear wall 19, end walls 20 and 21, a plurality of dividing members 23, 24, 25 and 26 and a pair of bolster members 27, only the left one of which is seen in Fig. 1. The lower and end edges of the dividing members are secured to the parts of the body element 11 where they touch in suitable fashion, as for example glueing, and this is also true of the bolster members 27. The upper edges of the dividing members 23-26 and the bolster members 27 are preferably in the same plane, so as to form an upper surface 30 to carry the under surface 31 of the palette element 15. The height of the surface 30 above the upper surface 32 of the bottom wall 17 is such as to position the upper surface 33 so as to be at the same level with the upper surface 34 of the rear wall 19.

The front and rear edges 35 and 36 of the palette 15 are distant from each other an amount slightly less than the distance between the inner surface 37 of the front wall 18 and the inner surface 38 of the rear wall 19. The end edges (not shown) of the palette 15 are similarly spaced from the inner surfaces 40 and 41 of the end walls 20 and 21 respectively.

The cover element 12 conforms in general size to the body element 11 and includes a top wall 47, a front wall 48, a rear wall 49 and end walls 50 and 51. The box 10, in the closed position thereof has the bottom wall 17 and the top wall 47 parallel. This positioning is obtained by having the combined heights of the front walls 18 and 48, rear walls 19 and 49, end walls 20 and 50, and end walls 21 and 51 equal. As best seen in Fig. 1, the front wall 48 is of considerably less height than the front wall 18; while the rear wall 19 and the rear wall 49 are substantially of equal height. The top surfaces of the end walls 20 and 21 are angularly arranged so that they taper downwardly in a rearward direction. The end walls 50 and 51 have their lower edges angularly arranged so that they taper upwardly in a forward direction.

The lower edge of the rear wall 49 is connected to the upper edge of the rear wall 19 by a plurality of hinges 44 and the box 10 is maintained in a closed position by the disconnectable fasteners 45 which may be of a well known type having a pivotal hook member 43 and a rotatable latch member 46.

Secured to the inner opposed surfaces of the end walls 50 and 51 are a pair of palette latching elements 60 and 61. The palette latching elements 60 and 61 are substantially identical except that the element 60 may be referred to as a left hand one and the element 61 as a right hand one. The elements 60 and 61 are secured to the cover element 12 in any suitable manner as by glueing. Each of the elements 60 and 61 is of a length substantially equal to the distance between the front wall 48 and the rear wall 49 and of a height substantially equal to the distance between the under surface of the top wall 47 and the upper surface 33 of the palette member 15 when the latter is in place upon the upper surface 30. The forward edges 62 and 63 of the elements 60 and 61 are downwardly and rearwardly curved to facilitate the entrance of the elements 60 and 61 into the body element 11. A supporting strut 65 is pivotally attached at the lower end thereof to the inner surface of the end wall 20 and at the upper end thereof is provided with an inwardly directed pin 66 which is selectively insertable within a plurality of orifices 68. The strut 65, when the pin 66 is thus engaged, serves to support the cover element 12 in a plurality of angular positions with respect to the body element 11. When the box 10 is closed, the strut 65 is rotated in a counter clockwise direction, as viewed in Fig. 1, to rest within the notch 69 in the dividing member 24.

The opposed inner surfaces of the palette latching elements 60 and 61 are provided with a plurality of spaced ribs 70 and 71. The ribs are parallel and are spaced a sufficient distance to allow the lateral edges of the painting panels 80 to be slideably inserted between them, in the grooves which are thereby formed. Thus, when the box 10 is in the open position shown in Fig. 1, any one of the several panels 80 may be inserted or removed and such shifting thereof is unobstructed by the front wall 48 which is located upwardly of the innermost groove. When, however, the cover element 12 is closed, the panels 80 are prevented from coming out of the box by the upper portion of the front wall 13. When the cover element 12 is in the closed position thereof, the then lower edges 82 and 83 of the latching elements 60 and 61 hold the palette element 45 securely in position so that the chambers formed by the dividing members 23-26 are completely closed and the various painting accessories are prevented from falling out or coming in contact with the panels. The panels being spaced may be put into the box in a wet condition so that they do not become smeared.

It may thus be seen that I have provided a novel and useful artist sketch box construction which is sturdy and simple, and which may be used with a maximum of convenience and facility. For example, when it is desired to close the box after work, it is necessary only to place the various tubes and brushes and so forth in the chambers defined by the dividing members 23-26, to lay the palette element 15 face up upon the surface 30, to disengage the brace or strut 65, and

to close the cover and manipulate the locks 45. The lower edges 82 and 83 prevent the moist surface of the palette from contacting the painting panels thereabove and no additional manipulation of the front wall 48 is required as in prior art constructions.

I wish it to be understood that I do not desire to be limited to the exact details of construction shown and described, for obvious modifications will occur to a person skilled in the art.

I claim:

1. Sketch box construction for use with a painting panel comprising: a main body element having a front wall and a rear wall, the front wall being of greater height than the rear wall; a cover element having a front wall and a rear wall adapted in the closed position of said box to engage the front and rear walls respectively of the body element, the front wall on the cover element being of less height than the rear wall of the cover element; a pair of elements extending between the front and rear walls of the cover element and projecting inwardly of the box beyond said front wall; and means to support a painting panel on the said elements; whereby when the box is closed, said painting panel may not be removed and when the box is open, said painting panel may be removed by passing beneath the lower edge of the front wall of the cover element.

2. In a sketch box for use with a painting panel: a box cover element having a plurality of vertical walls; a pair of elements connected to opposite vertical walls, said elements each projecting at one end thereof beyond the vertical wall to which it is attached; said elements having means thereon for removably supporting a painting panel, said means being entered at the ends thereof; whereby the painting panel may be removed by movement lengthwise of said elements.

3. Sketch box construction comprising: a main body element; a cover element; a palette element; said body element having a front and a rear wall and a divider member of less height than said front wall; said cover element having a front wall and a rear wall and a pair of palette latching elements between them, the latter extending below the lower edge of the front wall and adapted in the closed position of said box to project downwardly behind the front wall of the body element; said latching elements holding the palette element upon said divider; said latching elements having means thereon for detachably retaining a painting panel, said means being enterable from the front edges of the latching elements, said front edges being positioned rearwardly of the front wall of the body element in the closed position of said box whereby the painting panel is retained within the box.

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