E. K. BOTTLE.

WRITING DESK.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 8, 1918.

1,317,423. Patented Sept. 30, 1919.

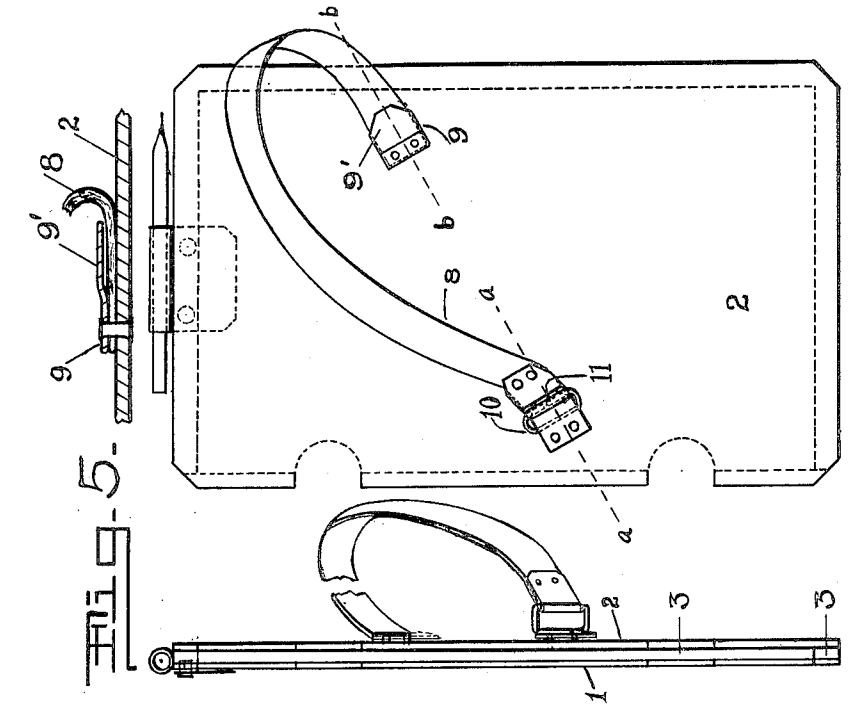


Fig. 2.

Fig. 5.

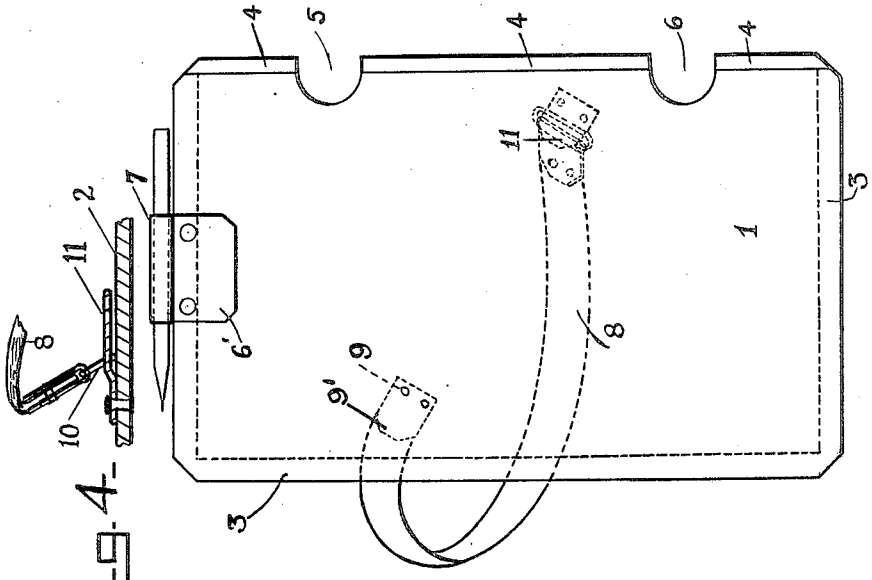


Fig. 1.

Fig. 4.

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WRITING-DESK.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD K. BOTTLE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Elmira, in the county of Chemung and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Writing-Desks, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to desks, and with respect to its more specific features to portable desks.

One of the objects of the invention is the provision of a practical portable desk of light weight and inexpensive structure.

Another object of the invention is the provision of an efficient portable desk of the character referred to which may be readily attached and detached from a member of the body, usually the leg, and when attached thereto retained in convenient position for writing.

Other objects will be in part obvious and in part pointed out hereinafter.

The invention accordingly consists in the features of construction, combinations of elements and arrangement of parts which will be exemplified in the construction hereinafter set forth, and the scope of the application of which will be indicated in the following claims.

In the accompanying drawings wherein the same reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the several views—

Figure 1 is a top view of one form in which the invention may be embodied;

Fig. 2 is a bottom view of the form illustrated in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a side view looking at the open side;

Figs. 4 and 5 are views showing details of certain clips or clasps, on the lines *a*—*a* and *b*—*b*, respectively, of Fig 2.

One of the main objects of the present invention is the provision of a practical and inexpensive writing table or tablet of a size which may be packed in a soldier's kit without occupying much space and yet which may be provided with the necessaries for writing, such as pencil, paper, and envelops and as well with means whereby the desk may be readily, easily and quickly utilized in the field in an idle moment.

As illustrated, the desk comprises a writing table which may be composed of thick paper board, superposed boards 1 and 2 being employed in the present instance, and being spaced apart by a member 3, to which the boards are firmly secured at or near their edges, this member being of such shape as to conform to the outer edge of the boards on three sides, thus leaving an entry-way on the fourth side into the pocket thus formed between the boards. The paper board may have some flexibility so as to, as it were, grip the writing materials in the pocket. One of the boards, as 2, extends outwardly beyond the proximate edge of the other board so as to form a lip 4, against which the edges of writing paper and envelops may be placed and guided into the pocket. Suitable finger openings 5 and 6 are provided in both boards, it being the general intent that the edge of the sheets of writing paper shall be normally exposed so as to be readily grasped by the thumb and finger within the finger openings. The lip 4 coöperates with the proximate edge of the other board between the finger openings so that envelops lying with their ends above the lip may be easily taken hold of by the thumb and finger. On the upper surface of the top board a spring clip 6′ may be employed to detachably retain the writing sheet in position for normal writing. Inasmuch as in the present embodiment the boards are generally rectangular and flat, the position for normal writing will be crosswise of the boards at right angles to the pocket side of the desk. At the upper other edge of the desk is a retainer 7 in which a pencil or other writing instrument may be removably held.

The numeral 8 indicates a means for detachably securing the writing table to an object, such as the leg. A most convenient position for utilizing this aparatus is with the right leg lifted and crossed over the other

leg and resting thereon just above the knee, the desk being supported on the right leg about opposite the knee and between the knee and the face of the person writing. It will be realized that in order that the desk supported as just described may be in most convenient position for a right handed person, its length or longitudinal axis should be inclined to the axis of the upper portion of the leg; that is to the axis of the portion between the knee and the body. Means are provided for detachably securing the table to the leg so that it will assume such convenient position on being attached without requiring any substantial manipulation by the writer other than attaching it by the means found on the desk. To this end a leg encircling belt 8 is attached, preferably to the bottom of the desk, in such manner that from its point or points of attachment the belt extends as a loop in a plane transverse, or normal, to that of the desk and at an angle to the lines of normal writing, *i. e.*, the line on the paper the writer follows as he writes. With the paper supported in normal writing position symmetrically with the sides of the desk, it will be seen that the belt will extend in such transverse or normal plane obliquely to the length of the writing sheet, and also obliquely to each side of the desk, and it will be further seen that the plane transversely through the leg and in which the belt lies when in operative position on the leg will be oblique to the length of the writing sheet when in normal writing position. Various means of attachment of the belt to the desk may be employed, and different varieties of belt may be used. In the form illustrated, the belt is elastic and permanently attached to the bottom of the desk at a predetermined point, 9 indicating a metallic plate fastened to the board 2 and binding one end portion of the belt in place, the end 9′ of the plate being spaced from the board 2 for reception of a loop. The opposite end or another portion of the belt is provided with a loop 10 which may be engaged with the hook or clasp 11 also secured to the bottom of the desk, but disposed at a different point longitudinally of the desk from the plate 9 and at a point out of alinement crosswise of the desk with the point where the belt is permanently secured. In this wise when the belt is around the leg it will lie obliquely to the normal writing line, as before explained, and its axis of stress will be oblique to said line.

Other forms of desk embodying the invention are to be understood as being within the general scope thereof. For instance, the board 1 of the desk may have an opening therethrough so that the note paper may be written upon while in the pocket. In windy weather this is an advantageous feature. Again the board 1 may be hinged to the board 2 at its lower end, and tablet may be removably held to the inner face of the bottom 2 by a clip similar to the clip 6, or by providing a tongue on the tablet to enter a slot in the bottom 2.

Thus by the above described construction are accomplished, among others, the objects hereinbefore referred to.

As many changes could be made in the above construction and many apparently widely different embodiments of this invention could be made without departing from the scope thereof, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawings shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

It is also to be understood that the language used in the following claims is intended to cover all of the generic and specific features of the invention herein described, and all statements of the scope of the invention which, as a matter of language, might be said to fall therebetween.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. A portable desk comprising, in combination, boards of paper material in superposed position, a member between said boards adapted to space the boards apart and form a pocket therebetween, one of said boards extending beyond the other at one side to provide a lip adjacent the opening into the pocket, and means to detachably secure the table to the leg comprising a leg encircling belt connected to the table and extending obliquely to the line of normal writing.

2. A portable desk comprising, in combination, boards of paper material in superposed position, a member between said boards adapted to space the boards apart and form a pocket therebetween, one of said boards extending beyond the other at one side to provide a lip adjacent the opening into the pocket, and means to detachably secure the table to the leg comprising an elastic belt connected to the table and extending obliquely to the line of normal writing when in operative position.

3. A portable desk comprising, in combination, a table, and means comprising a flexible belt depending therefrom, adapted to form a loop, to embrace the object to which the table is to be secured, and position the table in predetermined position thereon, the axis of stress of said belt being in a plane oblique to the length of the table and substantially normal to the plane of the table.

4. A portable desk comprising, in combination, a flat rectangular support providing a writing table, and an elastic belt connected thereto providing a leg-encircling loop in a

plane substantially normal to the writing plane and oblique to the line of normal writing, said belt extending from one face of the table at points spaced from each other and out of alinement with each other both longitudinally and crosswise of the table.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature, in the presence of two witnesses.

EDWARD KIRBY BOTTLE.

Witnesses:

A. C. GOULD,

A. L. STREETER.