July 2, 1963 D. C. KILLEN 3,095,666

WIDE FRAME FOLDING EASEL

Filed Oct. 3, 1961 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

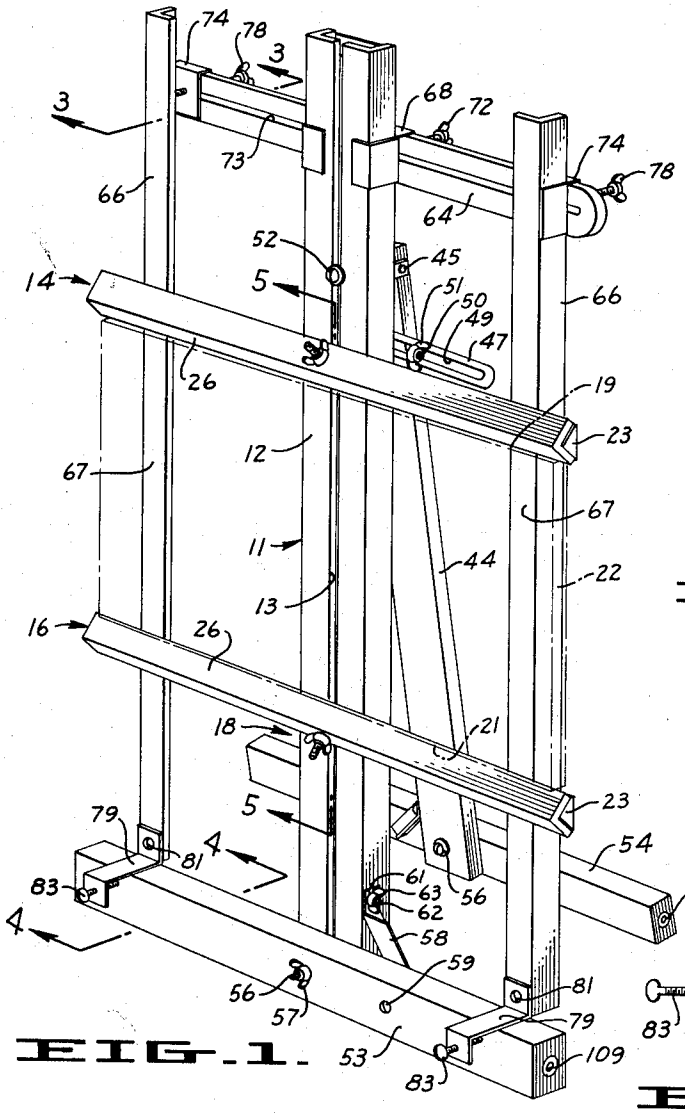


FIG. 1.

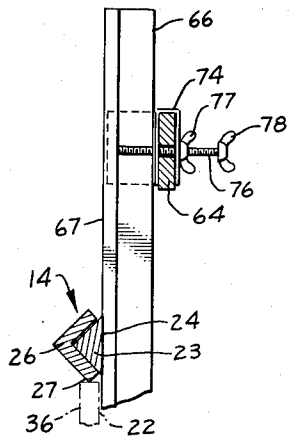


FIG. 3.

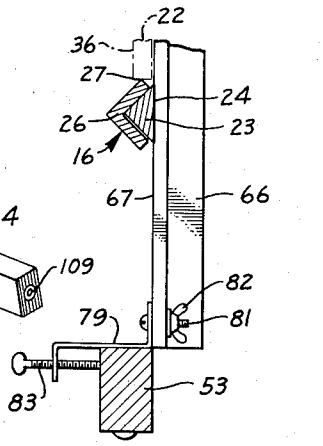


FIG. 4.

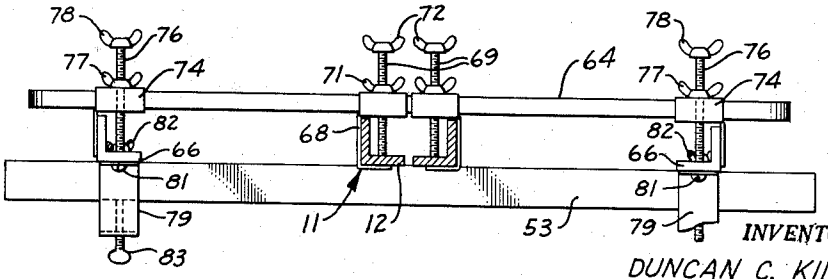


FIG. 2.

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WIDE FRAME FOLDING EASEL

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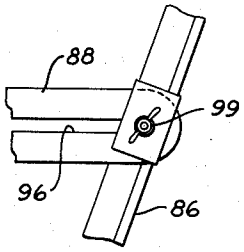


FIG. 8.

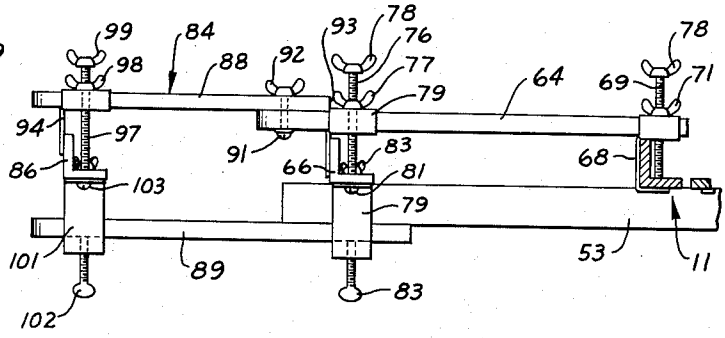


FIG. 7.

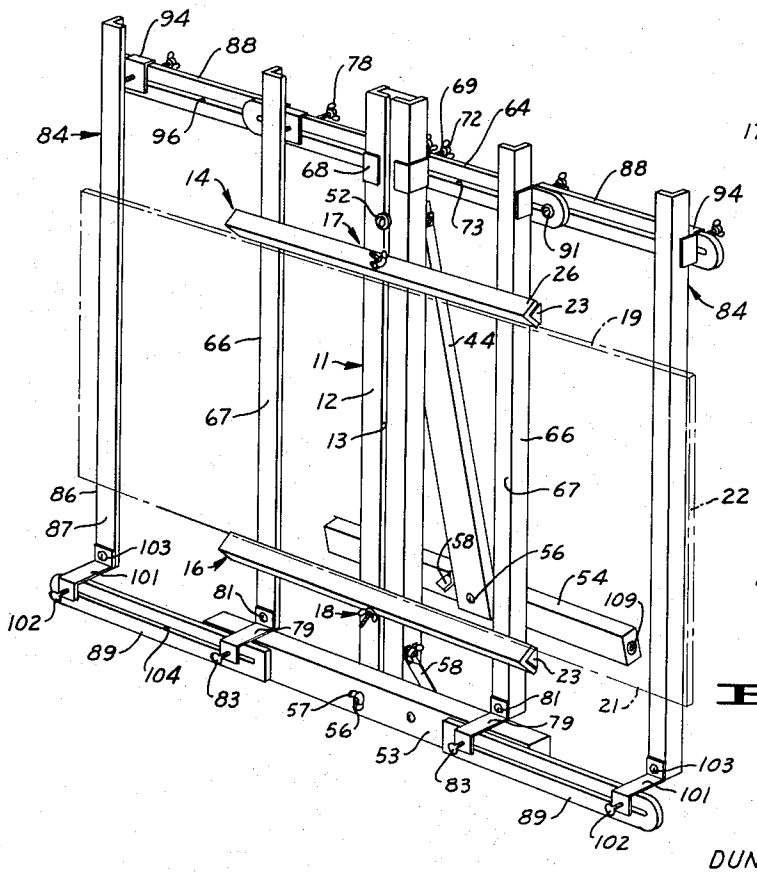


FIG. 6.

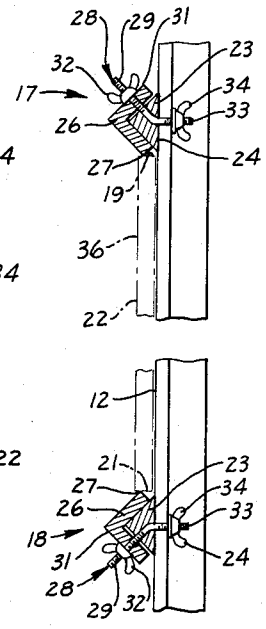


FIG. 5.

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WIDE FRAME FOLDING EASEL

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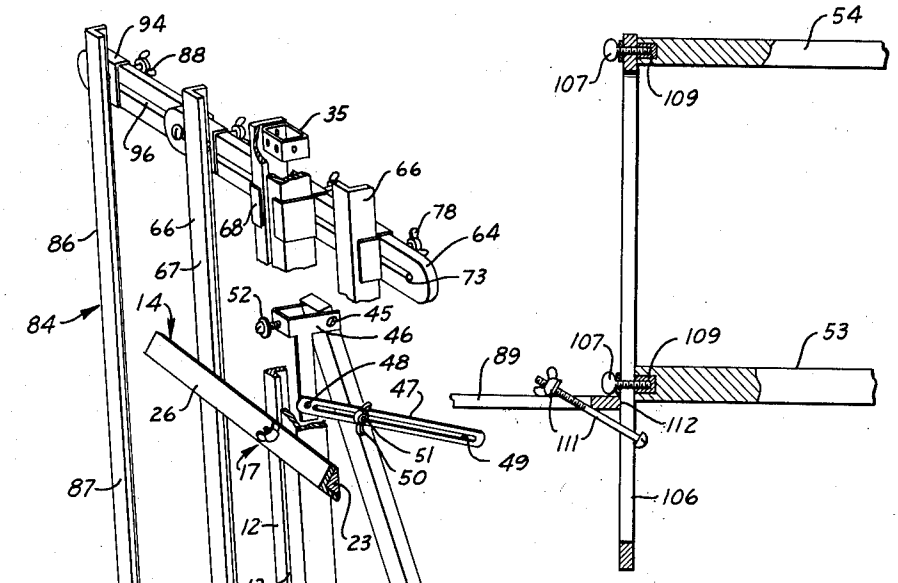


FIG. 10.

FIG. 9.

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United States Patent Office 3,095,666 Patented July 2, 1963

3,095,666

WIDE FRAME FOLDING EASEL

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Filed Oct. 3, 1961, Ser. No. 142,613
12 Claims. (Cl. 45—129)

This invention relates to improvements in a wide frame folding easel and more particularly to foldable easels of the type used by artists to support canvas-covered stretcher frames and the like, which provide the working surface upon which the artist draws or paints.

Previous easels generally support the stretcher frame on a narrow ledge or shelf and the partially completed picture is subject to being dislodged and damaged. Devices heretofore provided for clamping the stretcher frame to the easel, have been inadequate for the purpose, or have unduly interfered with the application of the paint or other medium to the canvas. Moreover, the earlier easels are shaky, particularly when used on uneven surfaces, and this can often create technical difficulties for the artist.

In my co-pending application Serial No. 84,309 filed January 23, 1961 from which this application is a continuation-in-part, the foregoing disadvantages are overcome and there is provided an ideal support for all types of objects upon which pictures are drawn. The stretcher frame or other object is held securely in place in a manner permitting the artist to freely extend his brush strokes beyond the edges of the canvas so as not to interfere with his painting technique.

Although the structure of my co-pending application is eminently satisfactory for the purpose, it has been found that when the canvas worked on is very wide, pressure exerted against the painting surface near the side edge will tend to twist the stretcher frame from between the clamp members. Thus the present invention provides means acting in combination with the holding means described in my earlier application whereby the stretcher frame or other object is held securely in place for very large pieces of work. In fact, there is also provided additional means for holding extraordinarily large pieces of work in one of the embodiments of this invention.

Accordingly it is a principal object of the present invention to provide a folding easel which will securely clamp and solidly support canvas-covered stretcher frames and the like in any position desired by the artist.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an easel of the character described in which the clamping means extends laterally over a considerable distance so as to insure that pressure against the working surface of the picture will not swing the picture or dislodge it from the clamping means, and means are provided for holding extra large work pieces securely in place.

A further object of the invention is to provide an easel of the character described in which the painting surface is completely free and the clamping means does not interfere with the edges thereof so as to permit the artist to paint freely over such edges.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide an artist's easel which will sit solidly on uneven surfaces such as warped floors or on the ground.

A still further object of the invention is to provide an artist's easel of the character described in which the picture may be oriented or tilted to any desired position with respect to the horizon.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a portable easel of the character described which is solid, sturdy and trouble-free in operation, the structure being designed to fold compactly when not in use and being adapted for rapid mass production from inexpensive materials.

Still another object of this invention is to provide means for tilting the work to an inclined position with the face of the work pointing somewhat downwardly to eliminate glare or any other unwanted effect, together with means for firmly supporting the easel while the work is so held.

Further objects and advantages of my invention will be apparent as the specification progresses, and the new and useful features of my wide frame folding easel will be fully defined in the claims attached hereto.

The preferred form of my invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings forming part of this application, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a folding easel constructed in accordance with the present invention;

FIGURE 2, a top view of the easel of FIGURE 1 in which the clamping devices are removed;

FIGURE 3, a partial sectional view taken substantially on the plane of line 3—3 of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 4, a partial sectional view taken substantially on the plane of line 4—4 of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 5, a fragmentary vertical cross sectional view taken substantially on the plane of line 5—5 of FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 6, a perspective view of another embodiment of this invention containing means for holding extraordinarily large pieces of work;

FIGURE 7, a partial top view of the easel of FIGURE 6 showing particularly the means for holding extraordinarily large pieces of work;

FIGURE 8, a partial back view of the corner of the easel of FIGURE 6 showing an alternate form of the same;

FIGURE 9, a perspective view of still another embodiment of this invention in which means are provided for giving additional support for the easel whereby work may be held in a forwardly inclined position; and

FIGURE 10, a partial cross-sectional view of the base of the easel shown in FIGURE 9, taken substantially on the plane of line 10—10 of FIGURE 9.

While I have shown only the preferred forms of my invention, it should be understood that various changes or modifications may be made within the scope of the claims attached hereto without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Referring to the drawings in detail, it will be seen that my folding easel consists basically of a generally upright standard **11** having a flat front face **12** formed with a vertically extending slot **13**, a pair of elongated clamping devices **14** and **16** extending laterally across front face **12**, and locking means **17** and **18** on devices **14** and **16**, respectively, the means **17** and **18** being engageable with slot **13** and formed for adjustably securing the clamping devices to the standard **11** in clamping engagement against the top and bottom edges **19** and **21**, respectively, of a canvas-covered stretcher frame **22**.

As here shown, the clamping devices **14** and **16** are similar in construction and, as may best be seen in FIGURES 3, 4 and 5, each includes an elongated bar **23** mounted on the standard **11** and extending laterally across the flat front face **12**.

The bars **23** are of triangular cross section with the base of the triangle providing a flat face **24** in sliding contact with the front face **12** of the standard.

Carried on the bars **23** are elongated clamping members **26** of L-shaped cross-section. The confronting edges **27** of the members **26** are adapted for clamping engagement against the top and bottom sides **19** and **21** of the stretcher frame **22** upon movement of the clamping members **26** toward each other.

The clamping members **26** are urged toward each other by bolt means **28**. Included in each of the means **28** is a bolt member **29** extending perpendicularly from the outer faces **31** of the bars **23** through the clamping members **26**. Thumbscrews **32** are threaded on bolt members **29** so that tightening down of the thumbscrews will tend to displace the clamping members **26** toward each other.

Locking means is also provided for adjustably securing the clamping devices **14** and **16** at the proper vertical spacing to accommodate the frame **22** intended to be clamped to the easel. This means includes bolt members **33** secured to and extending perpendicularly from the flat faces **24** of the bars **23** through the slot **13** in the standard **11**. Thumbscrews **34** are threaded on the bolt members **33** and may be tightened down to clamp the bars **23** to the standard at the desired positions therealong.

The easel of the present invention may be constructed of any suitable material but, in order to reduce fabrication and material costs, I prefer to utilize wood secured together by metal fasteners and brackets. Thus, as shown in my co-pending application, the standard **11** may conveniently comprise a wooden plank. However, in the present application the plank is replaced by a pair of wooden members of L-shaped cross section held in spaced relation by brackets **35**, as shown in FIGURE 9. The bars **23** and the clamping members **26** supported thereby are preferably also formed of wood. With this construction I have found it convenient to combine the bolt members **29** and **33** into a single unit pasing through the bar **23** in the manner illustrated in FIGURE 5 of the drawings.

As an important feature of the present invention, the clamping devices **14** and **16** are adapted to engage the stretcher frame **22** in such manner as to avoid interference with the brush strokes of the artist. For this purpose the confronting edges **27** of the clamping members **26** are of V-shape and are proportioned and positioned to engage the stretcher frame **22** in spaced relation to the front surface **36** of the canvas. This permits the artist to extend his brush strokes past the edges of the canvas and hence does not interfere with his brush technique. Of course, painting past the upper and lower edges **19** and **21** of the stretcher frame may deposit paint on the clamping members **26**, but this paint presents no problems and can easily be removed.

In accordance with the present invention the clamping devices **14** and **16** are normally secured perpendicular to the standard **11**, but if desired the clamping devices may be tilted so as to allow the artist to orient his picture at any desired angle to the horizontal. This adjustment is made possible by the length of the clamping devices together with the structure of the locking means which cooperates with the broad front surface of the standard **11** to securely hold the clamping devices at any desired angle of inclination.

If desired, a shelf may be secured at any desired height to the standard **11** by a suitable locking device which is slidably engaged through the slot **13** as shown and described in greater detail in my co-pending application Serial No. 84,309 mentioned above. As mentioned therein, the shelf is used to support paint brushes, turpentine and paint containers and the like.

The standard **11** is preferably supported in the desired position by brace member **44** attached by means of a hinge pin **45** in bracket **46** which is fastened to the rear surface of the standard medially of its length. An arm **47** is pivoted at **48** to the standard and is formed with a slot **49** through which is engaged a bolt **50** having a thumbscrew **51** for locking the brace. In order to provide tilting at a desired angle relative to the standard **11**, bolt **52** is fitted through slot **13** of standard **11** and the bracket fastened thereto within the slot to provide any desired tilt. In this way extreme positions including the forward tilt mentioned above are possible.

As a feature of my invention the easel will sit solidly

on uneven surfaces and may be adjusted relative thereto to position the slot **13** in a vertical plane. This is accomplished by elongated foot members **53** and **54** for the standard **11** and brace **44**, respectively, the foot members normally being perpendicular to the standard and brace but incorporating provisions for effecting independent tilting adjustment so that each foot member will be in firm contact with the surface upon which the easel is resting.

The desired tilting action of the foot members is obtained by pivoting them on bolts **56** projecting from the standard **11** and brace **44**, respectively. Thumbscrews **57** are provided on the bolts for securing the members **53** and **54** in the desired positions. Bracket means **58** is also provided for rigidly securing the members **53** and **54** at the desired angles. As here shown, the bracket means **58** are formed of sheet metal bent to an L-shaped cross section and are secured by pins **59** to the members **53** and **54**. The distal ends of the brackets are formed with elongated slots **61** through which bolts **62** project. Thumbscrews **63** may be backed off to permit relative adjustment of the brackets and may then be tightened down to hold the foot members rigidly in place.

As indicated above, the present invention provides extra support for holding large pieces of work. This support includes a first substantially horizontal member carried on the standard **11**, which in the preferred form is the elongated foot member **53**; a second substantially horizontal member **64** carried on the standard **11** at a position above said first horizontal member; and a pair of generally vertical members **66**. These generally vertical members have front faces or surfaces **67**; all of which lie in a common plane which includes the flat front face **12** of standard **11**. Thus it is seen that the stretcher frame **22** is supported by members **66** as well as standard **11** while being clamped into a rigidly fixed position by the confronting edges **27** of members **26**. This support allows strong clamping forces to be applied without twisting the frame into a distorted position, and also allows considerable pressure to be brought to bear on the canvas while working thereon.

In order to provide strong support for horizontal member **64** on the standard **11**, a bracket **68** is provided and the bracket and members are held together by bolts **69** and thumbscrews **71**. Thumbscrews **72** are also provided on bolts **69** which are adapted to loosen or tighten the bolt against bracket **68**. Adjustability of member **64** is obtained by means of slot **73** and a slot in bracket **68** (not shown) so as to provide horizontal positioning with respect to the standard **11**. Vertical adjustability is obtained by sliding bolt **69** to the desired position and clamping on standard **11**.

The substantially vertical members **66** are adjustably secured to horizontal member **64** at each end thereof by means of brackets **74**, bolts **76** and associated thumbscrews **77** and **78**, as best seen in FIGURES 2 and 3. Bolts **76** fit through slot **73** of horizontal member **64** and adjustment is achieved by movement in the slot. The bracket and members are held in place by tightening nuts **77** and once again nuts **78** may be used to tighten the bolt **76**. The lower ends of the generally vertical members **66** are secured to foot member **53** by means of brackets **79**. These brackets are held to the members **66** by means of bolts **81** and nuts **82** and are held to foot member **53** by means of bolts **83** as best seen in FIGURES 2 and 4. As mentioned above, the generally vertical members are adjustable and can be tilted both sideways and forward and backward. Accordingly, the term "generally vertical member" as used herein should be construed to include a reasonable deviation from the vertical.

Referring more particularly to FIGURES 6, 7 and 8, there is shown another embodiment of the present invention in which means are provided for supporting extraordinarily wide pieces of work. These means comprise a pair of extension assemblies **84**; each assembly com-

prising a generally upright member **86** having a front face **87** which lies in the same plane as front faces **67** of generally vertical members **66** and the front face **12** of upright standard **11**.

In order to space the upright members **86** a distance away from the generally vertical members **66**, a pair of horizontal extension members **88** and **89** are provided at the top and bottom, respectively, on each side of the easel. Members **88** are secured to horizontal member **64** at each side thereof by means of bolts **91** and thumbscrews **92** with the square ends **93** of extension members **88** butting firmly against bracket **74**, as shown in FIGURE 7. Upright members **86** are secured to horizontal extension members **88** by means of brackets **94**. These brackets are secured to upright members **86** and adjustably secured through slots **96** of horizontal extension members **88** by means of bolts **97** and associated nuts **98** and **99**. The lower horizontal extension member **89** is secured to the elongated foot member **53** by means of bolts **83** and bracket **79** and secured to upright member **86** by means of bracket **101**, bolt **102** and bolt **103**, as best shown in FIGURE 7.

In FIGURE 7, it is seen that the bolts **83** and **102** hold the lower horizontal extension member **89** by means of a clamping force against upright members **66** and **86** through brackets **101** and **79**. This provides for adjustment of upright member **86** at various angles, and by adjusting member **86** in the slot **96** of the upper horizontal extension member as well, various positions are possible to provide support at the end of various sizes of stretcher frames. In addition, it is possible to eliminate the lower horizontal extension member and position the upright member **86** somewhat diagonally as shown in FIGURE 8.

In FIGURE 9, there is shown another embodiment of the invention, in which means are provided for supporting the easel in a forwardly tilted position and which also provides a more rigid base for the easel. These means comprise a pair of outriggers **106** which are secured to the elongated foot members **53** and **54** with screws **107**. Slot **108** is provided in outrigger **106** and at least one opposing pair of screws **107** fit therethrough so as to provide adjustment for regulating the spacing between the foot members **53** and **54**. As seen in FIGURE 1, sockets **109** are provided on each of the foot members for better fitting of screws **107**.

The outriggers may be used in either the embodiment of FIGURE 1 or that of FIGURE 6. When used with the easel of FIGURE 1, the outriggers are simply screwed into place. However, when used with the embodiment of FIGURE 6, it is necessary to modify the attachment of horizontal extension member **89**, and this may be accomplished as shown in FIGURE 10. In this illustration, a bolt and nut **111** is extended somewhat angularly through the outrigger **106** and through slot **104** of horizontal extension member **89**. On tightening of the nut on the bolt, the end **112** of extension member **89** is tightly held against the outrigger **106**.

From the foregoing it will be seen that I have provided a novel folding, portable artist's easel adapted for firmly and solidly supporting a canvas-covered stretcher frame or the like of considerable size in any desired position and without interference with the painting being done on the surface of the canvas.

I claim:

1. An easel for supporting the stretcher frame of an artist's canvas or the like, comprising a generally upright standard having a flat front face formed with a vertically extending slot, a first substantially horizontal member carried on said upright standard at the lower end therof, a second substantially horizontal member carried by said upright standard above said first horizontal member, a pair of generally vertical members carried on and extending between said first and second horizontal members, said pair of generally vertical members having front faces substantially in a plane including the front face of the upright standard, bracket means for adjustably securing said vertical members to said horizontal members, a pair of elongated clamping devices fitting on the standard at positions located between said horizontal members and extending laterally across said front face and said vertical members, said clamping devices being formed with confronting longitudinal V-shaped edges adapted for engaging the stretcher frame in spaced relation to the front surface of the canvas whereby the artist may extend his brush strokes past the edges of the canvas, locking means on said devices engaging said slot and formed for adjustably securing said devices to said standard in clamping engagement against the top and bottom edges of the stretcher frame, and a pair of extension assemblies adapted to fit each side of the easel each comprising a member having front faces substantially in the plane of the front faces of the generally vertical members.

2. An easel for supporting the stretcher frame of an artist's canvas or the like, comprising a generally upright standard having a flat front face formed with a vertically extending slot, a first substantially horizontal member carried on said upright standard at the lower end thereof, a second substantially horizontal member carried by said upright standard above said first horizontal member, a pair of generally vertical members carried on and extending between said first and second horizontal members, said pair of generally vertical members having front faces substantially in a plane including the front face of the upright standard, bracket means for adjustably securing said vertical members to said horizontal members, a pair of elongated clamping devices fitting on the standard at positions located between said horizontal members and extending laterally across said front face and said vertical members, said clamping devices being formed with confronting longitudinal V-shaped edges adapted for engaging the stretcher frame in spaced relation to the front surface of the canvas whereby the artist may extend his brush strokes past the edges of the canvas, locking means on said devices engaging said slot and formed for adjustably securing said devices to said standard in clamping engagement against the top and bottom edges of the stretcher frame, and a pair of extension assemblies adapted to fit each side of the easel each comprising a pair of horizontal extension members and generally upright members extending between said pair of horizontal members and having a front face in substantially the same plane as the front faces of said generally upright members.

3. An easel for supporting the stretcher frame of an artist's canvas or the like, comprising a generally upright standard having a flat front face formed with a vertically extending slot, a first substantially horizontal member carried on said upright standard at the lower end thereof, a second substantially horizontal member carried by said upright standard above said first horizontal member, a pair of generally vertical members carried on and extending between said first and second horizontal members, said pair of generally vertical members having front faces substantially in a plane including the front face of the upright standard, bracket means for adjustably securing said vertical members to said horizontal members, a pair of elongated clamping devices fitting on the standard at positions located between said horizontal members and extending laterally across said front face and said vertical members, said clamping devices being formed with confronting longitudinal V-shaped edges adapted for engaging the stretcher frame in spaced relation to the front surface of the canvas whereby the artist may extend his brush strokes past the edges of the canvas, locking means on said devices engaging said slot and formed for adjustably securing said devices to said standard in clamping engagement against the top and bottom edges of the stretcher frame, and a pair of extension assemblies adapted to fit each side of the easel each com-

prising a horizontal extension member and a diagonally disposed member having a front face in substantially the same plane as said generally vertical members.

4. An easel for supporting the stretcher frame of an artist's canvas or the like, comprising a generally upright standard having a flat front face formed with a vertically extending slot, a first substantially horizontal member carried on said upright standard at the lower end thereof, a second substantially horizontal member carried by said upright standard above said first horizontal member, a pair of generally vertical members carried on and extending between said first and second horizontal members, said pair of generally vertical members having front faces substantially in a plane including the front face of the upright standard, a pair of elongated bars mounted on said standard at positions located between said horizontal members and extending laterally across said front face and said vertical members, each of said bars being of triangular cross-section with the base of the triangle providing a flat face in sliding contact with said front face, a first bolt means extending perpendicularly from said flat face of each of said bars through said slot and formed to clamp said bars to said standard at desired positions therealong, elongated clamping members of L-shaped cross-section carried on said bars and having confronting edges adapted for clamping engagement with the stretcher frame upon movement of said clamping members toward each other, a second bolt means extending perpendicularly from the outer faces of said bars through said clamping members and formed for urging said clamping members toward each other, and a pair of extension assemblies adapted to fit each side of the easel each comprising a member having front faces substantially in the plane of the front faces of the generally vertical members.

5. An easel for supporting the stretcher frame of an artist's canvas or the like, comprising a generally upright standard having a flat front face formed with a vertically extending slot, a pair of elongated clamping devices extending laterally across said front face, locking means on said devices engaging said slot and formed for adjustably securing said devices to said standard in clamping engagement against the top and bottom edges of the stretcher frame, an elongated foot member pivotally mounted on and extending transversely across the lower end of said standard, bracket means formed for securing said foot member at a desired angle to said standard whereby said slot may be oriented to lie in a vertical plane, a horizontal member carried by said upright standard above said foot member by an adjustable bracket, a pair of generally vertical members carried on and extending between said horizontal member and said foot member by means of adjustable brackets, and a pair of extension assemblies adapted to fit each side of the easel each comprising a member having front faces substantially in the plane of the front faces of the generally vertical members.

6. An easel for supporting the stretcher frame of an artist's canvas or the like, comprising a generally upright standard having a flat front face formed with a vertically extending slot, a pair of elongated clamping devices extending laterally across said front face, locking means on said devices engaging said slot and formed for adjustably securing said devices to said standard in clamping engagement against the top and bottom edges of the stretcher frame, an elongated foot member pivotally mounted on and extending transversely across the lower end of said standard, bracket means formed for securing said foot member at a desired angle to said standard whereby said slot may be oriented to lie in a vertical plane, a horizontal member carried by said upright standard above said foot member by an adjustable bracket, a pair of generally vertical members carried on and extending between said horizontal member and said foot member by means of adjustable brackets, and a pair of extension assemblies adapted to fit each side of the easel each comprising a pair of horizontal extension members and generally upright members extending between said pair of horizontal members and having a front face in substantially the same plane as the front faces of said generally upright members.

7. An easel for supporting the stretcher frame of an artist's canvas or the like, comprising a generally upright standard having a flat front face formed with a vertically extending slot, a pair of elongated clamping devices extending laterally across said front face, locking means on said devices engaging said slot and formed for adjustably securing said devices to said standard in clamping engagement against the top and bottom edges of the stretcher frame, an elongated foot member pivotally mounted on and extending transversely across the lower end of said standard, bracket means formed for securing said foot member at a desired angle to said standard whereby said slot may be oriented to lie in a vertical plane, a horizontal member carried by said upright standard above said foot member by an adjustable bracket, a pair of generally vertical members carried on and extending between said horizontal member and said foot member by means of adjustable brackets, and a pair of extension assemblies adapted to fit each side of the easel each comprising a horizontal extension member and a diagonally disposed member having a front face in substantially the same plane as said generally vertical members.

8. An easel for supporting the stretcher frame of an artist's canvas or the like, comprising a generally upright standard having a flat front face formed with a vertically extending slot, a pair of elongated clamping devices extending laterally across said front face, locking means on said devices engaging said slot and formed for adjustably securing said devices to said standard in clamping engagement against the top and bottom edges of the stretcher frame, said locking means being formed to provide tilting adjustment of said clamping devices, an elongated foot member pivotally mounted on and extending transversely across the lower end of said standard, bracket means formed for securing said foot member at a desired angle to said standard, the tilting adjustments of said clamping devices and said foot member cooperating to permit a desired orientation of the stretcher frame relative to the horizon even though said easel is standing on a non-horizontal surface, a horizontal member carried by said upright standard above said foot member by an adjustable bracket, and a pair of generally vertical members carried on and extending between said horizontal member and said foot member by means of adjustable brackets, said pair of generally vertical members having front faces substantially in a plane including the front face of the upright standard.

9. An easel for supporting the stretcher frame of an artist's canvas or the like, comprising a generally upright standard having a flat front face formed with a vertically extending slot, a first substantially horizontal member carried on said upright standard at the lower end thereof, a second substantially horizontal member carried by said upright standard above said first horizontal member, a pair of generally vertical members carried on and extending between said first and second horizontal members, said pair of generally vertical members having front faces substantially in a plane including the front face of the upright standard, a brace member hingedly attached to the rear side of said standard, means for fastening said brace member at a desired angle relative to said standard, a pair of elongated clamping devices fitting on the standard at positions located between said horizontal members and extending laterally across said front face of the standard and said vertical members, locking means on said devices engaging said slot and formed for adjustably securing said devices to said standard in clamping engagement against the top and bottom edges of the

stretcher frame, and a pair of extension assemblies adapted to fit each side of the easel each comprising a member having front faces substantially in the plane of the front faces of the generally vertical members.

10. An easel for supporting the stretcher frame of an artist's canvas or the like, comprising a generally upright standard having a flat front face formed with a vertically extending slot, a first substantially horizontal member carried on said upright standard at the lower end thereof, a second substantially horizontal member carried by said upright standard above said first horizontal member, a pair of generally vertical members carried on and extending between said first and second horizontal members, said pair of generally vertical members having front faces substantially in a plane including the front face of the upright standard, a brace member hingedly attached to the rear side of said standard, means for fastening said brace member at a desired angle relative to said standard, a pair of elongated clamping devices fitting on the standard at positions located between said horizontal members and extending laterally across said front face of the standard and said vertical members, locking means on said devices engaging said slot and formed for adjustably securing said devices to said standard in clamping engagement against the top and bottom edges of the stretcher frame, and a pair of extension assemblies adapted to fit each side of the easel each comprising a pair of horizontal extension members and generally upright members extending between said pair of horizontal members and having front faces substantially in the plane of the front faces of the generally vertical members.

11. An easel for supporting the stretcher frame of an artist's canvas or the like, comprising a generally upright standard having a flat front face formed with a vertically extending slot, a first substantially horizontal member carried on said upright standard at the lower end thereof, a second substantially horizontal member carried by said upright standard above said first horizontal member, a pair of generally vertical members carried on and extending between said first and second horizontal members, said pair of generally vertical members having front faces substantially in a plane including the front face of the upright standard, a brace member hingedly attached to the rear side of said standard means, for fastening said brace member at a desired angle relative to said standard, a pair of elongated clamping devices fitting on the standard at positions located between said horizontal members and extending laterally across said front face of the standard and said vertical members, locking means on said devices engaging said slot and formed for adjustably securing said devices to said standard in clamping engagement against the top and bottom edges of the stretcher frame, and a pair of extension assemblies adapted to fit each side of the easel each comprising a horizontal extension member and a diagonally disposed member having a front face substantially in the plane of the front faces of the generally vertical members.

12. An easel for supporting the stretcher frame of an artist's canvas or the like, comprising a generally upright standard having a flat front face formed with a vertically extending central slot, a brace member hingedly attached to the rear side of said standard medially of its length, an arm pivoted to said standard and having a slot formed therein, a bolt secured to said brace member slidably engaged in the slot in said arm, said bolt having a manually engageable nut for fastening the brace member at a desired angle relative to said standard, a pair of elongated bars mounted on said standard and extending laterally across said front face, each of said bars being of triangular cross-section with the base of the triangle providing a flat face in sliding contact with said front face of the standard, a first bolt means extending perpendicularly from said flat face of each of said bars through the slot in said standard and formed to clamp said bars to said standard at desired positions therealong, elongated clamping members of L-shaped cross-section carried on said bars and having confronting edges adapted for clamping engagement with the stretcher frame upon movement of said clamping members toward each other, a second bolt means extending perpendicularly from the outer faces of said bars through said clamping members and formed for urging said clamping members toward each other, the confronting edges of said clamping members being of V-shape so as to present a sharpened edge adapted for engaging the stretcher frame in spaced relation to the front surface of the canvas whereby the artist may extend his brush strokes past the edges of the painting surface, elongated foot member pivotally mounted on and extending transversely across the lower end of said standard and brace member, a horizontal member carried by said upright standard above said foot member by an adjustable bracket, a pair of generally vertical members carried on and extending between said horizontal member and said foot member, by means of adjustable brackets, said pair of generally vertical members having front faces substantially in a plane including the front face of the upright standard, bracket means formed for securing said foot member at desired angles relative to said standard and brace member whereby said easel may be supported solidly on an uneven surface, a pair of extension assemblies adapted to fit each side of the easel each comprising a member having front faces substantially in the plane of the front faces of the generally vertical members, a pair of base members extending between the lower part of said brace member and said elongated foot member and extending in front of the foot member whereby support is given when the easel is tilted forward to such an extent that the top of the work is held in front of the bottom of the work, and said brace member having a horizontal base member pivotally mounted at the lower end thereof.

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