May 2, 1944. L. T. CRISMON 2,347,886

BOOK LETTERING TABLE

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Fig. 1.

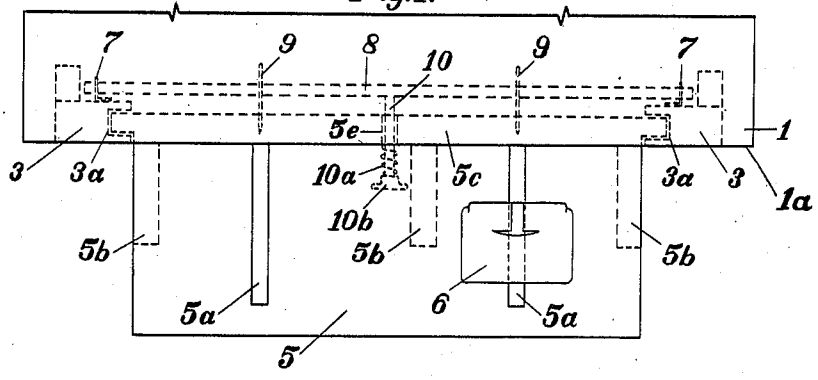
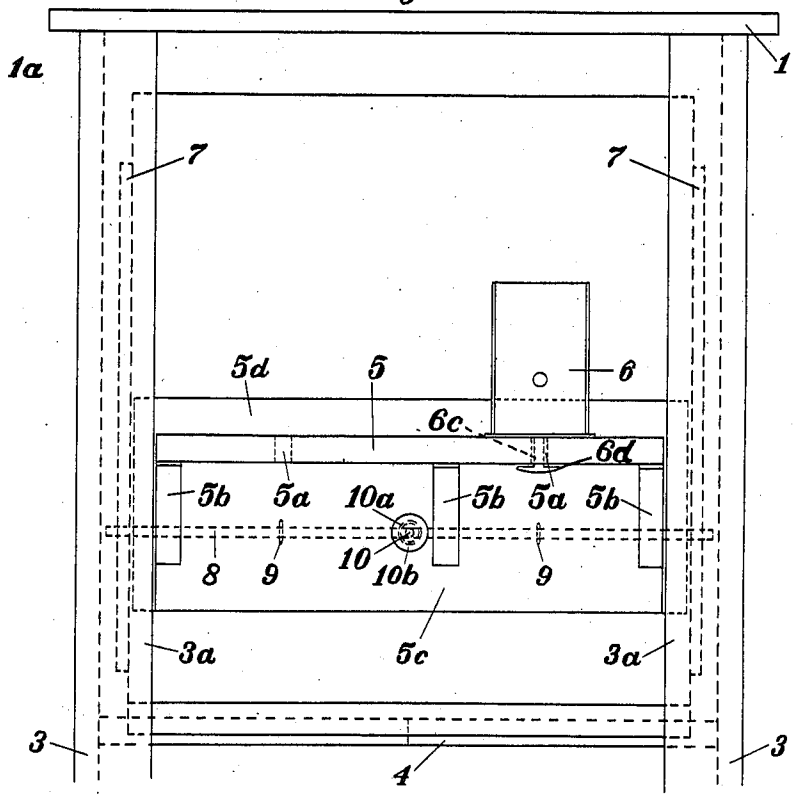


Fig. 2.



Leo T. Crismon
INVENTOR.

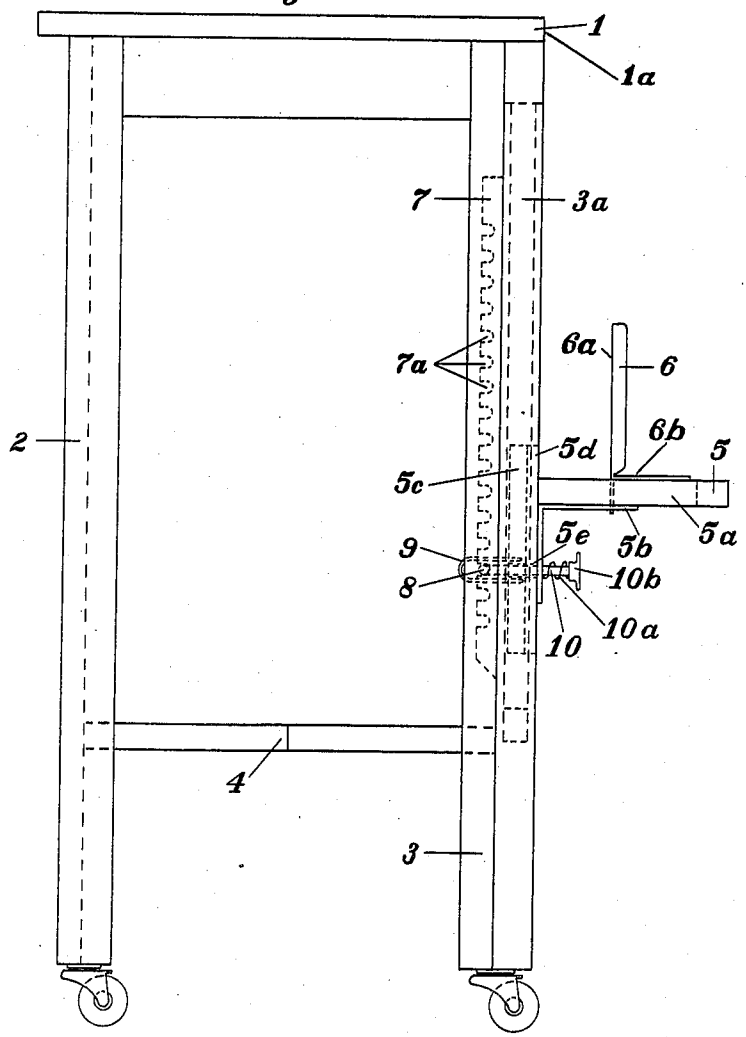
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Fig. 3.



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Patented May 2, 1944 2,347,886

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,347,886

BOOK LETTERING TABLE

Leo T. Crismon, Louisville, Ky.

Application June 10, 1942, Serial No. 446,514

2 Claims. (Cl. 311—1)

This invention relates to a book lettering table, and more particularly to a table having means whereby books of different sizes may be readily positioned for convenient lettering.

In indexing new books, particularly in libraries, it is the practice to apply shelf marks, usually in the form of white characters, to the books on the backs thereof or so-called spines. This is the portion of the books exposed as they ordinarily stand on a shelf and the marks are for the purpose of distinguishing them readily on the library shelves. Lettering is also necessary in the case of rebound or reconditioned books. In the past it has been the practice to either hold the book with one hand and letter with the other, an awkward and tiring procedure, or to open the book and spread it face downward on a table. The latter practice is particularly objectionable in the case of new and rebound books as it is harmful to the binding.

It is a major object of my invention to provide novel means whereby a book of any size can be conveniently supported for such lettering in conjunction with a table upon which the operator may work, the book being securely supported during the lettering operation in a manner that is not harmful to the binding.

More specifically, my invention has as an object, the provision of a novel table having a book supporting means combined therewith and adapted to support books of different sizes with their surfaces to be lettered substantially flush or slightly above the top of the table whereby the book surface to be lettered forms an extension of the upper surface of the table and is convenient to an operator working at the table.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a plan of the right end of the table of Figure 3, illustrating a preferred embodiment of my invention.

Figure 2 is a front elevation of the table, the lower portions of the legs thereof being omitted.

Figure 3 is a side elevation of the table.

My invention contemplates the provision of a table of convenient height at which an operator may work standing or sitting, whichever is preferred. One edge of the table is substantially flush with book supporting means depending substantially vertically therefrom, the latter means including a vertically adjustable and substantially horizontal shelf combined with adjustable means to hold books of different sizes in an upright position thereon. By means of the adjustment, any book, regardless of size, can be supported on the shelf with its surface to be lettered, usually the spine or back of the book, in a marking level or plane substantially flush with or slightly above the table top. With a book so supported, an operator can work thereon with a minimum of fatigue and in a position to secure the best lettering.

Referring to the drawings, a table having a top 1 with legs 2 and 3 preferably mounted on rollers or glides is shown, the top of the table in the illustrated embodiment being about 16" x 23". The legs are connected by conventional cross braces 4. Legs 2 are connected with the table top at a point spaced inwardly from the edge of the top while legs 3 are connected to the top in a way such that their outer surfaces lie in a substantially vertical plane that is substantially flush with edge 1*a* of the table as shown in Figures 1 and 3. The inner opposed faces of legs 3 are formed with recesses or grooves 3*a* to receive and guide a backboard 5*c* forming a part of a vertically adjustable shelf 5. A substantially horizontal shelf member 5 is secured to backboard 5c by angle brackets 5*b* in a position whereby the upper surface of the shelf is below the upper edge of the backboard to form a vertical surface 5*d*, the face of which is substantially in the same vertical plane as the outer surfaces of legs 3 and table edge 1*a*. Section 5*d* serves as a support for one side of a book supported on shelf 5, the outer side of the book being supported by a book holder or clamp 6 which has a vertical member 6*a* arranged to engage a side of the book, a horizontally extending section 6*b* arranged to frictionally contact the upper surface of shelf 5 and a leg 6*c*, extending through a slot 5*a* in shelf 5, and having a lock member or lug 6*d* thereon. This type of clamp is capable of ready horizontal adjustment in slot 5*a* to accommodate books of different sizes and is capable of firmly holding a book in position against surface 1*a* of the table top and vertical surface 5*d* of the backboard or the flush surfaces of legs 3 if the book be of large size. For small books, only one clamp 6 need be used. For large books, two such clamps may be required. In the table illustrated, a book up to 5" in thickness can be accommodated.

To accomplish vertical adjustment of backboard 5c and shelf 5 so as to bring the spine of the book to be lettered up to the marking level, which is substantially flush or slightly above table top 1, racks 7, either of metal or wood, with rounded recesses or notches 7*a* at intervals of about ⅘" are fastened to legs 3. Metal guides 9 in backboard 5c are provided to carry a metal rod 8 of a size to fit within recesses 7*a*. Rod 8 has an extension 10 welded or similarly fastened to

its center and extending through a hole 5e to a point beneath shelf 5. A knob 10b is secured to extension 10 whereby the extension can be pushed inwardly or to the left as viewed in Figure 3 to move rod 8 to the left and out of the recesses 7a in which it may be engaged. This permits vertical adjustment of the shelf to another point at which knob 10b can be released whereupon rod 8 engages the adjacent recesses 7a by reason of spring 10a which is mounted about extension 10 in a manner to react between the backboard and knob 10b.

In the table shown, the adjustment of backboard 5c is such that shelf 5 may be adjusted from 16 to 3½ inches from table top 1.

In operation, if it be assumed that the back or spine of a book is to be lettered, the book is placed in the holding space between the backboard and clamp with its open or leaf edge on shelf 5 and one side against surface 5d so that the back of the book is in a horizontal plane, parallel to the plane of table top 1. Rod 8 is then released to permit vertical adjustment of shelf 5 until the back of the book is substantially flush with or slightly above table top 1. At the proper position, rod 8 is permitted to engage the adjacent recesses 7a in rack 7. Clamp 6 is then adjusted as necessary against the remaining side of the book, to hold the book in position against surfaces 5d and 1a. The book is thus held securely in a position whereby the operator working on table 1 can conveniently letter the back by using the table as an arm rest.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. An adjustable book holder for a work table, on one side of which books may be held for book marking purposes with their spines facing upwardly within a marking level adjacent the top edge of the table, comprising: vertical guide means; a book holding assembly composed of a vertically arranged backboard, a horizontally arranged shelf secured to the backboard at a level substantially below its top, and a clamp extending upwardly from the shelf and cooperating with it and the upper part of the backboard to define an open-top holding space into which a book may be placed for marking purposes, said clamp being slidably mounted on the shelf for manual movement horizontally toward and away from the backboard to vary the horizontal thickness of said space and thus accommodate books of different thicknesses and to clamp and release books in said space; and means slidably mounting the assembly on the guide means for manual movement upwardly toward and downwardly away from the marking level to vary the height between the bottom of the book space and the marking level and thus enable the spines of books of different widths to be adjusted to the marking level.

2. The holder of claim 1 wherein: the guide means presents a pair of vertically-arranged horizontally-spaced guide grooves in opposite relation; the assembly is slidably mounted by slidably mounting opposite ends of the backboard in opposite guide grooves; and manually operable means are provided for releasably securing the assembly to the guide means at selected points in its range of vertical movement.

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