Oct. 9, 1923. 1,470,052

W. L. BLAIR

BOOKREST

Filed July 29, 1922

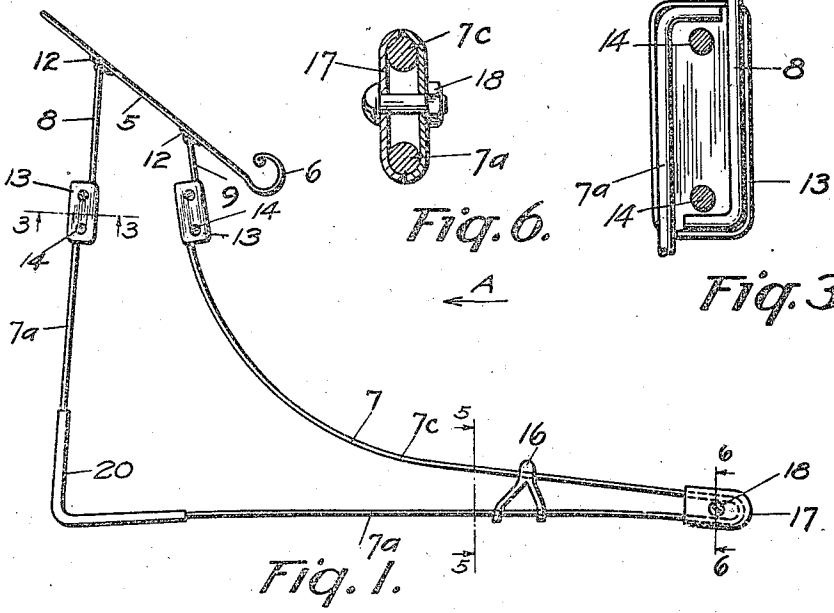


Fig. 6.

Fig. 1.

Fig. 3.

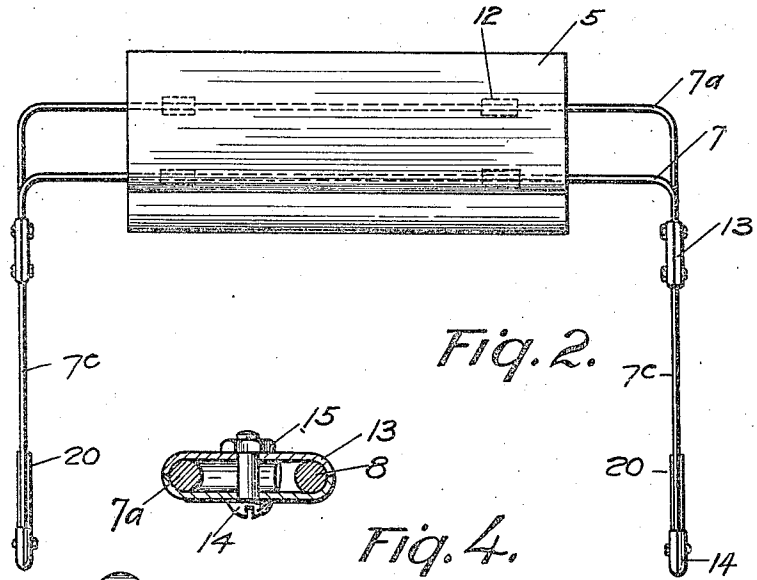


Fig. 2.

Fig. 4.

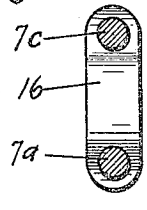


Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM L. BLAIR, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

BOOKREST.

Application filed July 29, 1922. Serial No. 578,297.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM L. BLAIR, citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bookrests, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to reading desks and more particularly to certain new and useful improvements in book-supports of the type shown and described in my application for patent, Serial No. 530,406, filed on the nineteenth day of January, 1922.

It is the principal object of the present invention to provide a simple arrangement of parts which permits of the supporting or leg-elements of the easel being collapsed or divided for the purpose of placing the device in a box or package of compact form suitable for transportation by mail or to be put away in a storage place of limited dimensions.

Another object of the invention is to provide means to effect and maintain an adjustment of the supports of the desk in order to vary the angle at which the book rest of the same is held before the eyes of the reader, and still other objects reside in certain details of construction, all of which will be fully explained in the course of the following description.

In the accompanying drawings, in the various views of which like parts are similarly designated, Figure 1 represents a side elevation of my improved reading desk;

Figure 2, a front view of the same looking in the direction of the arrow A, Figure 1;

Figure 3, an enlarged view of one of the couplings of the sections of the supporting elements of the desk, one of the halves of the coupling having been removed, and the screws by which the halves are connected, having been shown in section;

Figure 4, a cross section through the coupling along the line 3—3, Figure 1, drawn to an enlarged scale;

Figure 5, an enlarged section on the line 5—5, Figure 1; and

Figure 6, an enlarged section taken on the line 6—6, Figure 1.

Referring to the drawings, the reading desk consists of a book rest composed of a back-board 5 and a trough-like support 6 at the lower edge thereof. The book rest is mounted in a slanting position upon a frame composed of a pair of substantially parallel elongated feet 7 which project forwardly of the rest to the greater part of their longitudinal extent. Each foot is made of a piece of wire doubled and bent to form an open frame the parts 7^a and 7^c of which diverge from the forward end of the foot, and again approach each other below the slanting book-rest. The bottom part 7^a of each foot is slightly curved to engage with a surface upon which the desk is supported and it is at its rearward end bent upwardly in a substantially upright position. The upper part 7^c of the foot is curved upwardly and its free end is about on a level with the end of the other, lower part.

The supporting frame of the book rest furthermore includes two U-shaped brackets 8 which are pivotally connected with the back-board of the book rest by clevises 12 on the underside thereof and their parallel arms which on the forward bracket are shorter than on the other, extend downwardly to connect with the corresponding upwardly projecting ends of the two feet. The extremities of the corresponding ends of the feet and the brackets are bent at right angles in opposite directions as shown in Figure 3 of the drawings, and the ends are rigidly connected by means of couplings 13 which embrace their bent extremities and are each composed of two hollowed halves rigidly clamped together by bolts 14 and nuts 15.

It will be evident that the two brackets and the two supporting members thus connected, form together a rigid frame which holds the book rest in a slanting position above a surface upon which the desk is placed, and which is readily collapsed or taken apart whenever it is desired to pack the device for storage or transportation.

The wire of which the frame is composed is inherently resilient so that the diverging parts of the feet can be brought nearer together in order to vary the slant of the book-support. Ordinarily, the frame will maintain the adjusted position of its parts without the aid of fastening means, owing to its pivotal connection with the book rest, but I have found that in many instances it was more practical and convenient to have an appliance which not only locks the parts of the feet in their relative positions but also facilitates the adjustment of the same.

The appliance above referred to consists of a link 16 which is apertured to slidably

fit upon the diverging parts of the supporting members and which is preferably bifurcated to facilitate its sliding motion.

It will be apparent that by sliding the links along the diverging parts of the feet, the angle at which the book rest is held, is readily varied and maintained.

The feet are weighted at their forward ends to overbalance the weight of a book supported on the rest and the means provided for that purpose consist of metal tips 17, each consisting of two halves which are recessed to embrace the forward ends of the respective foot of the supporting frame and which are clamped together by screws 18.

In the use of the invention, the reading desk is placed on a chair or bed so as to straddle the body of a person occupying the same in a sitting or reclining position. The forwardly projecting weighted feet hold the desk in place without the use of fastening means, and a book may thus be supported at the proper reading distance from the eyes of the reader. The angle at which the book is held is varied by sliding the links along the diverging parts of the supporting members of the device and the latter are readily divided into parts or folded by removing or loosening the bolts which connect the complementary halves of their couplings. In order to prevent the wire legs of the reading desk from injuring an article of furniture with which it is brought in contact, the lower parts 7^a of the legs are provided with rubber sleeves 20.

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

1. A reading desk of the character described, comprising a book-rest, a frame supporting the rest in a slanting position, said frame being adjustable by deformation to vary the slant of the rest, and means on the frame adapted to effect and maintain its said deformation.

2. A reading desk of the character described, comprising a book rest, a frame supporting the rest in a slanting position and including a pair of elongated wire feet which project forwardly of the same, said feet being adjustable by their inherent resiliency, to vary the slant of the rest, and means on the feet adapted to effect and maintain their said adjustment.

3. A reading desk of the character described, comprising a book rest, a frame supporting the rest in a slanting position and including a pair of elongated wire feet which project forwardly of the same and are composed of diverging, interconnected parts, and sliding links on said parts, adapted to adjust their angle of divergence whereby to vary the slant of the book rest.

4. A reading desk of the character described, comprising a book rest, and a collapsible wire frame supporting the rest in a slanting position and composed of U-shaped brackets pivoted on the book rest, feet projecting forwardly of the book rest and having end-portions adjacent those of the brackets, and couplings connecting the brackets and the feet.

5. A reading desk of the character described comprising a book rest, a wire frame adapted to support the rest in a slanting and elevated position and composed of two elongated foot-members projecting forwardly of the book rest, members pivoted on the underside of the book rest and adapted to be folded upon the same when disconnected, and couplings for the rigid and detachable connection of the pivoted members with the foot members.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

WILLIAM L. BLAIR.