July 24, 1923. 1,463,070

J. P. DORAU

FOLDABLE IRONING BOARD

Filed Feb. 20, 1922 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1.

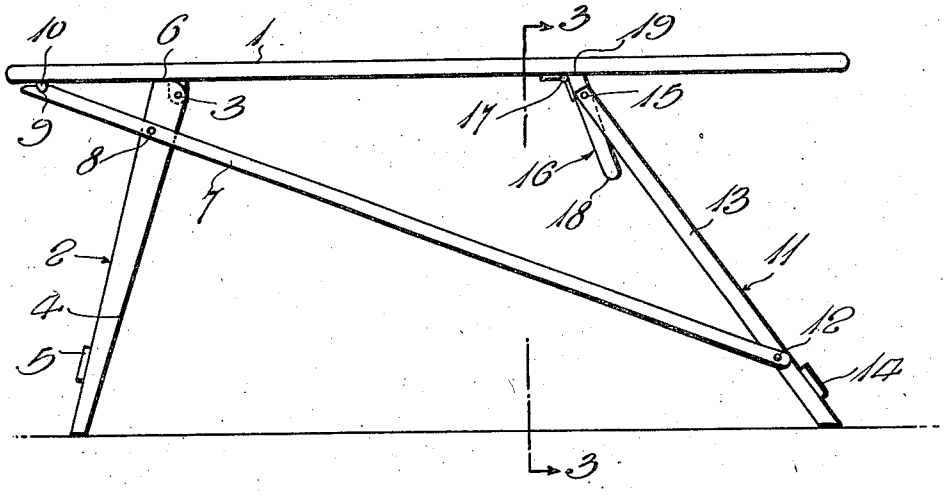


FIG. 2.

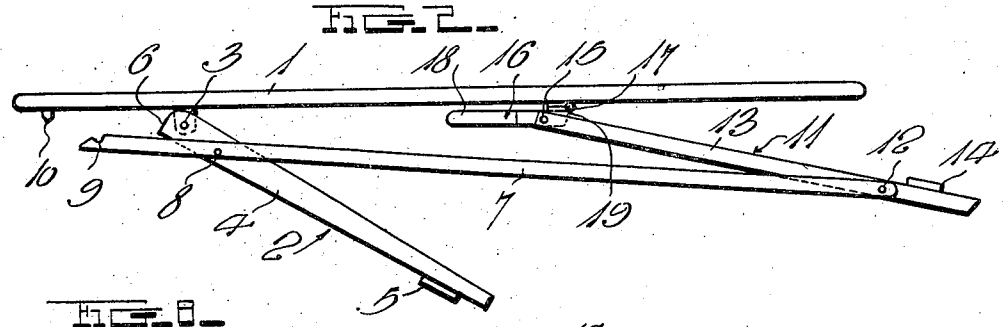


FIG. 3.

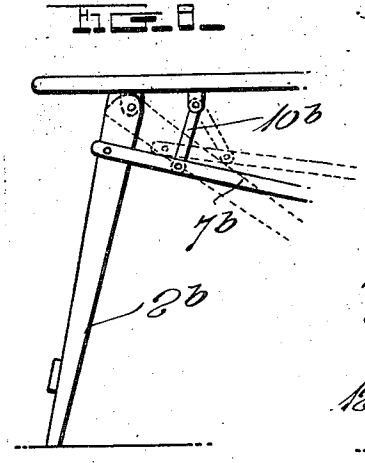


FIG. 4.

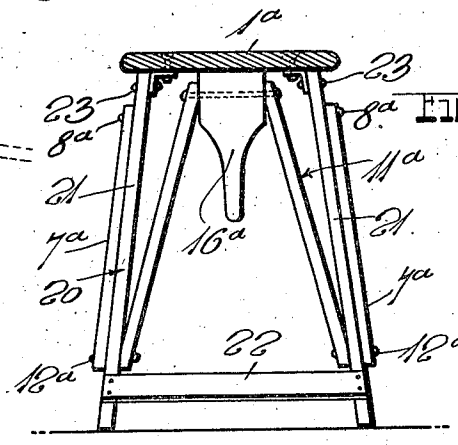
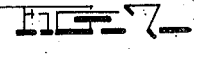


FIG. 7.



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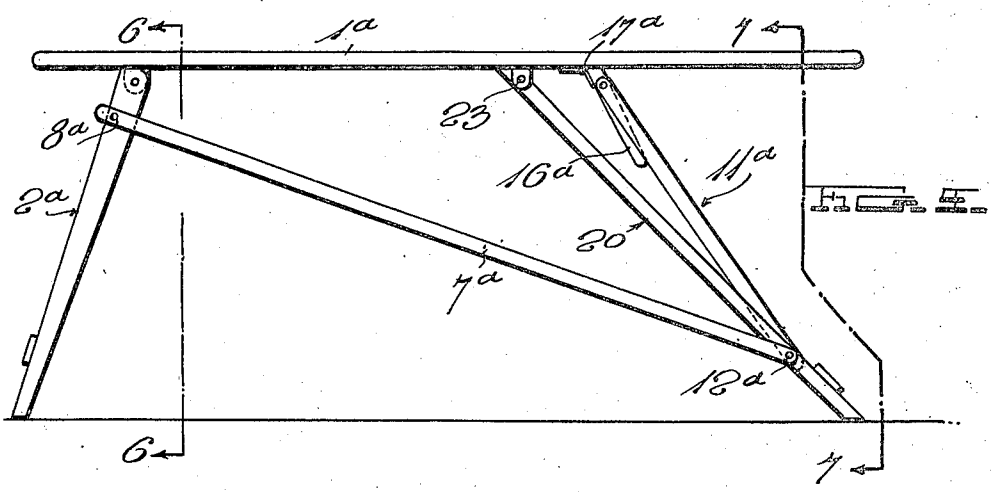


FIG. 5

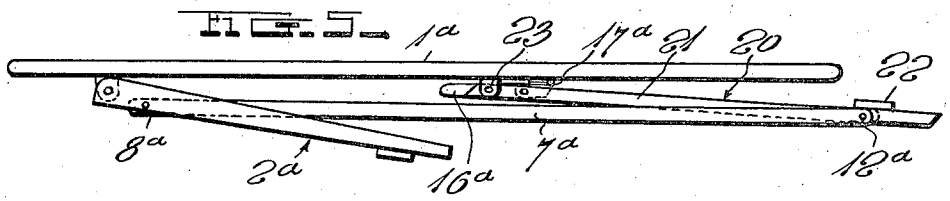


FIG. 3

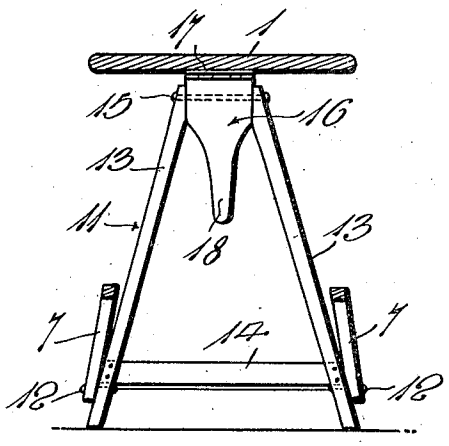
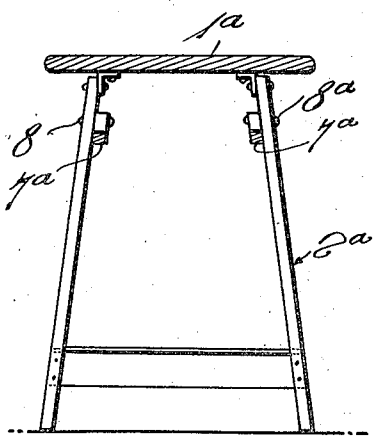


FIG. 6



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN P. DORAU, OF NORTH FOND DU LAC, WISCONSIN.

FOLDABLE IRONING BOARD.

Application filed February 20, 1922. Serial No. 537,878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN P. DORAU, a citizen of the United States, residing at North Fond du Lac, in the county of Fond du Lac and State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Foldable Ironing Boards; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention has for its object to provide an extremely simple and inexpensive foldable ironing board which may be easily folded when not in use, yet will be exceptionally rigid when set up for operation.

With the foregoing in view, the invention resides in the novel subject matter hereinafter described and claimed, the descriptive matter being supplemented by the accompanying drawings.

Figure 1 is a side elevation showing the preferred form of my ironing board set up for use.

Figure 2 is a duplicate of Fig. 1 with the exception that it shows the supporting structure of the board partially folded.

Figure 3 is a vertical transverse sectional view as indicated by line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Figure 4 is a side elevation showing a different form of construction.

Figure 5 is a duplicate of Fig. 4 with the exception that it illustrates the board partially folded.

Figures 6 and 7 are transverse sectional views as indicated by lines 6—6 and 7—7 of Fig. 4.

Figure 8 is a fragmentary side elevation showing a still further modified form of construction.

In the form of construction shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, the ironing board 1 is supported at one end by a leg structure 2 pivoted thereto at 3, said leg structure preferably consisting of a pair of legs 4 connected by any suitable means such as a transverse slat 5. The pivotal axes 3 by means of which the leg structure 2 is pivoted to the board, are offset from the centers of the legs 4 and the upper ends of the latter are shaped to abut the lower side of the board as indicated at 6 so as to limit the movement of the leg structure to its operative position as shown in Fig. 1. A pair of inclined braces 7 are pivoted near their upper ends to the legs 4, as indicated at 8 and it will be seen that the upper ends of said braces extend beyond the legs and are provided with notches 9 receiving a transverse cleat 10 which is secured to the lower side of the board 1 at a point spaced outwardly from the legs. This cleat not only co-acts with the braces 7 to fix the upper ends of the latter with respect to the board, but it reinforces the board to prevent possible cracking.

At their lower ends, the braces 7 are pivoted to an additional leg structure 11 as indicated by the numeral 12. As seen most clearly in Fig. 3, the leg structure 11 comprises a pair of upwardly converging legs 13 rigidly connected at their lower ends by a transverse slat 14, the upper ends of said legs being pivoted at 15 to opposite sides of a hand-lever 16. This lever, as shown at 17, is hinged to the board 1 at its upper end while its lower end is suitably shaped as at 18 to form a hand-grip, whereby said lever may be moved beyond dead center to the position shown in Fig. 1, thereby holding the legs 13, braces 7, and legs 4, in operative relation with the board. When the hand lever is moved in this manner, its movement beyond dead center may be limited by any suitable means but I prefer to bevel the upper end of said lever as indicated by the numeral 19 so that it may strike the lower surface of the board 1 to produce the required results.

While positioning the lever 16 in the manner illustrated in Figs. 1 and 3, will hold the entire board supported structure in operative position, inward swinging of said lever will permit said structure to be compactly folded so that the ironing board may be stored in small space when not in use. Attention may here be directed to the fact that Fig. 2 as well as all other figures of the drawings which illustrate the folding operations necessary with respect to the several forms of board, only show partially folded positions, for sake of clearness.

In the construction shown in Figs. 4 to 7, the numeral 1^a designates the ironing board to which a leg structure 2^a is pivoted, inclined braces 7^a being pivoted at 8^a to said leg structure and terminating at the same however, instead of extending beyond as shown in Fig. 1. At their lower ends, the braces 7^a are pivoted at 12^a to an additional inclined leg structure 20 which consists of a pair of inclined legs 21 rigidly connected at

their lower ends by a strip 22, while their upper ends are pivoted at 23 to the ironing board 1^a. To hold the frame structure so far described, in operative position, I employ a structure 11^a which is identical with the structure 11 above described in detail, the upper end of said structure 11^a being hinged at 17^a to the board 1 at a point spaced outwardly from the pivots 23, while the lower end of said structure 11^a is pivoted to the leg structure 20, preferably by means of the pivots 12^a. Operation of the lever 16^a of the structure 11^a will either hold the entire board supporting frame in operative position or permit it to fold, as shown for instance in Fig. 5.

In the modified form of construction shown in Fig. 8, a leg structure 2^b is pivoted to the ironing board 1^b and is of the same formation as the structures 2 and 2^a. The braces 7^b however which are pivoted to said leg structure and are adapted to coact with another leg structure such as shown at 11 in Fig. 1, are associated with the board 1^a in a different manner. These braces, instead of abutting the lower side of the board or a cleat thereon as shown in Fig. 1 are linked to the board as shown at 10^b. The links prevent the braces 7^b from swinging downwardly beyond operative positions, but these braces can of course spring when the lever 16 is operated, as is also true of the construction shown in Fig. 1. Since the inherent resiliency of the braces 7 permits swinging of the lever 16 beyond dead center, it will be seen that this resiliency also yieldably holds the lever in its operative position.

From the foregoing, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, it will be seen that all forms of my invention are simple and inexpensive, yet that they will be highly advantageous and desirable. Since excellent results have been obtained from the details disclosed, they may well be followed, but within the scope of the invention as claimed, numerous minor changes may be made.

I claim:

1. An ironing board supporting frame formed of pivotally connected framing members and including a pair of pivoted members, an operating lever hinged to the ironing board on a transverse axis and extending downwardly between the upper ends of said members, and a pivot parallel with the hinge axis connecting said ends of said members with said operating lever, the lower end of said lever being shaped to form a hand-hold for forcing the lever and members beyond dead center to effective position, means being provided for then limiting the movement of the lever.

2. An ironing board supporting frame formed of pivotally connected framing members and including a pair of pivoted members, an operating lever hinged to the ironing board on a transverse axis and extending downwardly between the upper ends of said members, and a pivot parallel with the hinge axis connecting said ends of said members with said operating lever, the lower end of said lever being shaped to form a hand-hold for forcing the lever and members beyond dead center to effective position, the upper end of said lever being beveled to strike the ironing board and limit the movement of said lever beyond dead center.

3. A foldable ironing board comprising a board, a leg structure pivoted to the board near one end, a spring brace pivoted to said leg structure and extending from said leg structure to a point beneath the opposite end portion of the board, the upper end of said brace being engageable with the board to limit downward swinging movement of the brace, an additional leg structure to which the lower end of said brace is pivoted, and a hand lever having its upper end hinged to the board, the upper end of said additional leg structure being pivotally connected with said lever adjacent the upper end of the lever, said lever having swinging movement beyond dead center to a limited extent and being held in such position by the inherent resiliency of said brace whereby to hold the entire board supporting structure in an operative position.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

JOHN P. DORAU.