

[54] **PORTABLE NEEDLECRAFT SUPPORT**

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[58] Field of Search **38/102, 102.1, 102.2;
285/18, 260, 420; 223/66; 160/380; 108/43**

[56] **References Cited**

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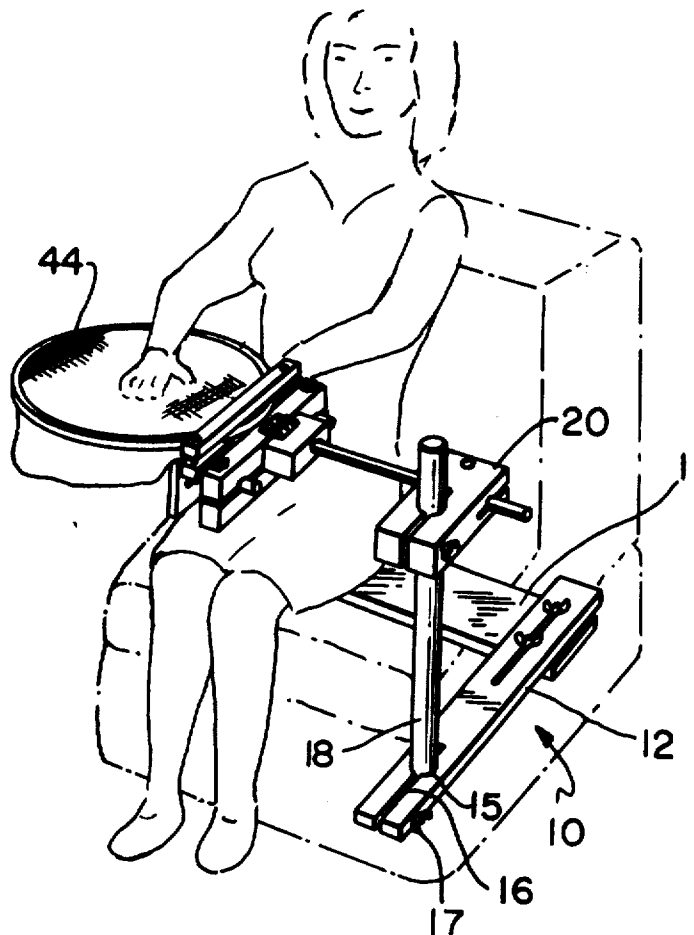
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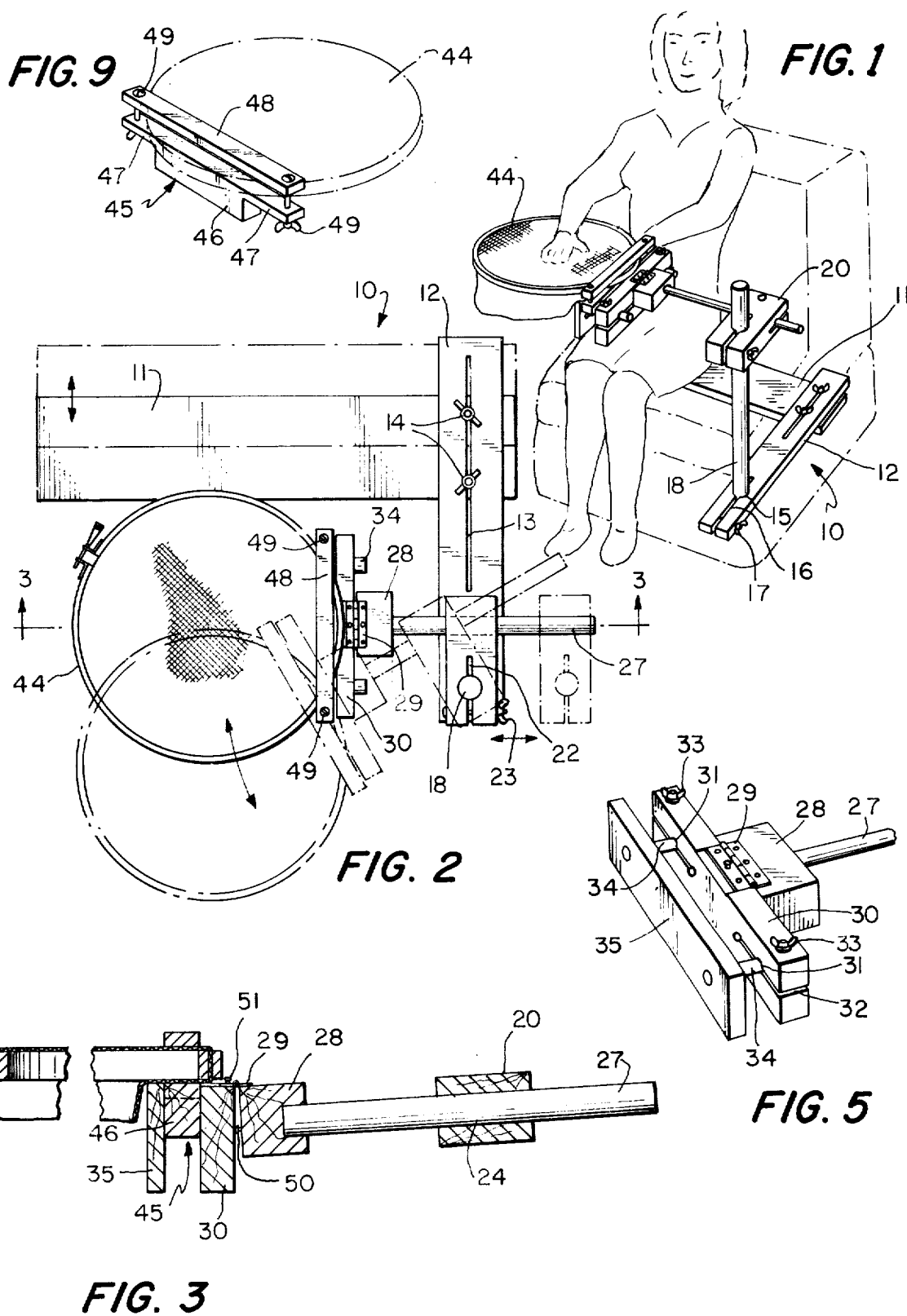
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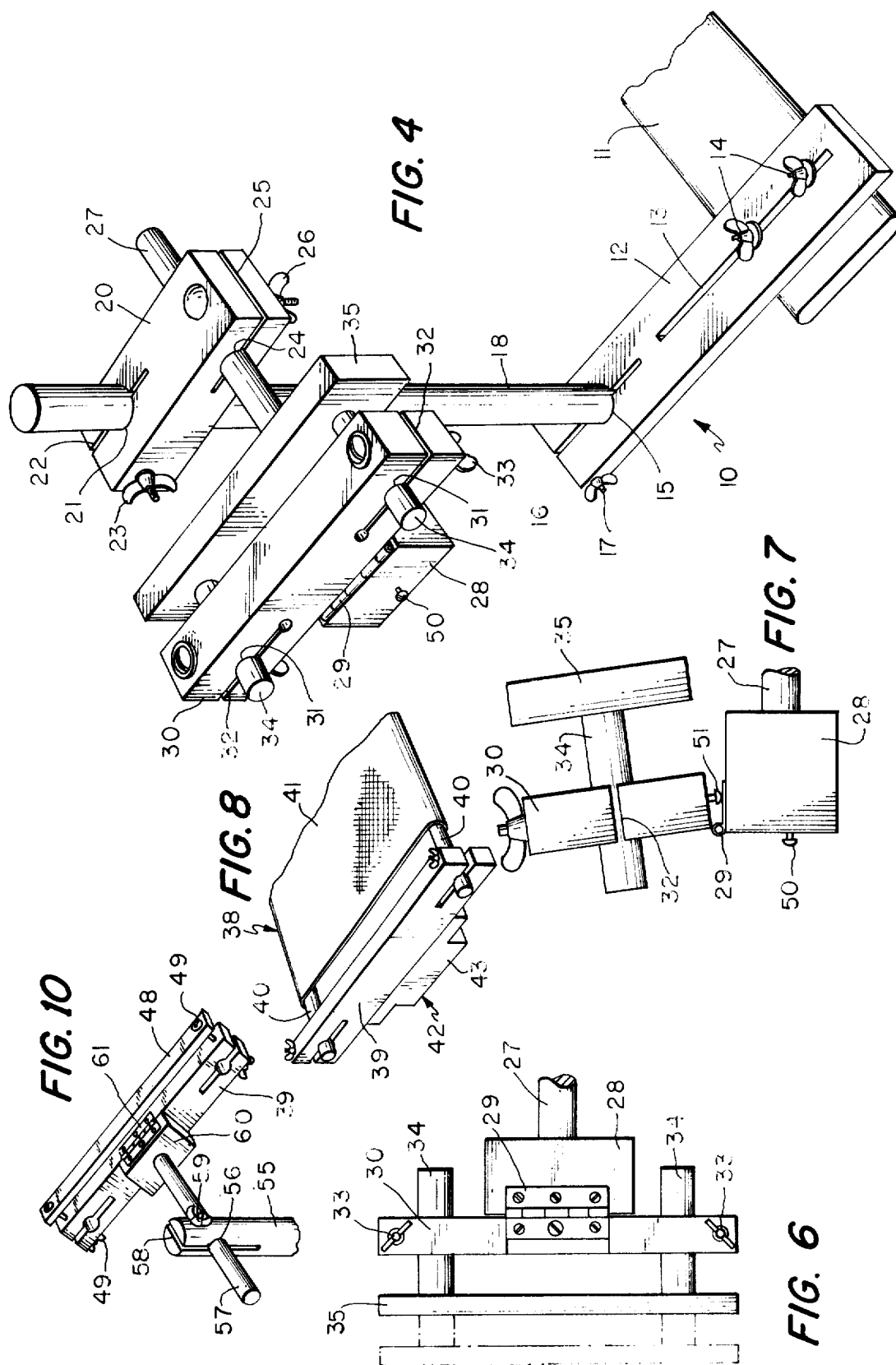
ABSTRACT

A portable apparatus for supporting a fancy stitchery working frame in a position readily accessible to a needlecraftsman and which is adjustable to accommodate different types of working frames including embroidery hoops, tapestry frames and the like in a manner to permit the needlecraftsman to use both hands on the work. The apparatus includes a supporting structure which is adjustable in a plurality of directions for different sized persons and readily accepts a plurality of interchangeable fancy stitchery working frames each of which may be inverted so that various functions can be performed on opposite sides of the material carried thereby.

7 Claims, 10 Drawing Figures







PORTABLE NEEDLECRAFT SUPPORT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates generally to fancy stitchery or hand needlecraft and relates particularly to a portable apparatus which supports a working frame in a comfortable easily accessible position to a craftsman.

2. Description of the Prior Art

In the past fancy stitchery and art needlework have been practiced for centuries and since the work has been done by hand the resulting products have not only served a useful purpose but have been treasured as heirlooms and works of art. Many work supporting frames, such as embroidery hoops, tapestry frames, rug frames and the like, have been provided for holding a length of base material which is usually of a woven character, in a stretched or taut condition, while a craftsman worked a design thereon using a needle and one or more colored threads or yarns to enhance the appearance of the base material. During this operation, relatively small frames, such as embroidery hoops and small tapestry frames, normally are held in one hand while the other hand is used for manipulating the needle and thread. Frequently a large number of colors are to be worked into the fancy stitchery and therefore it has been necessary that much knotting and cutting of the threads be done. Substantially all of the knotting and cutting are done on the reverse side of the base material so as not to detract from the design on the obverse side. Accordingly, it has frequently been necessary to reverse the working frame from the front to the back and from the back to the front.

Heretofore some efforts have been made to provide working frame support stands; however, most of these stands are relatively large and are supported on the floor and most of these stands require a support at each end of the working frame. Some efforts have been made to provide lightweight portable support stands for fancy stitchery working frames such as the U.S. Pat. Nos. to Voit 583,520; Post 707,353; Wilkins 1,016,463; Selden 3,730,077; and Bucher 3,750,312. However, most of the prior art structures have lacked the degree of flexibility required to perform the various functions associated with fancy needlework and many of the prior art structures had to be mounted on a fixed structure such as the edge of a table or the like. SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is embodied in a portable fancy stitchery working frame support stand having a base member adapted to be placed on a chair or the like so that a needlecraftsman sits on the seat frame to stabilize the remainder of the apparatus. The remainder of the apparatus is adjustably mounted on the base member so that the working frame is held in a position which is easily accessible to the craftsman and is adapted to support the frame so that the craftsman may use both hands simultaneously to work on the design. The support stand is constructed in a manner to permit ready access to both the obverse and reverse sides of the working frame and is readily adjustable to a desired height and angular relationship relative to a craftsman and can accommodate a plurality of interchangeable sizes and types of working frames.

It is an object of the invention to provide a portable fancy stitchery working frame support stand which is stabilized by the craftsman sitting on a portion of the

stand while other portions adjustably support the working frame in a position easily accessible to the craftsman.

Another object of the invention is to provide a support stand for a desired type of fancy stitchery working frames and provide ready access to the obverse and reverse sides of the working frame.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective illustrating one application of the apparatus.

FIG. 2 is a top plan view of the apparatus per se.

FIG. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary section on the line 3—3 of FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is a fragmentary perspective illustrating the support stand per se without a working frame.

FIG. 5 is a perspective illustrating a working frame support in a first position.

FIG. 6 is a top plan view of the structure of FIG. 5.

FIG. 7 is an end elevation illustrating the structure of FIG. 5 in a second position.

FIG. 8 is a fragmentary perspective of a tapestry frame support member.

FIG. 9 is a perspective of an embroidery hoop mounting member.

FIG. 10 is a perspective illustrating another embodiment of the working frame mounting member.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

With continued reference to the drawings, a portable support stand 10 is provided having an elongated relatively flat base 11 upon which a craftsman sits. A slide plate 12 having an elongated slot 13 located substantially along the longitudinal axis thereof is adjustably mounted on the base 11 by a pair of spaced adjustable fasteners such as bolts and wing nuts 14. The bolts are mounted on the base and extend upwardly through the slots 13 and the wing nuts secure the slide plate 12 in fixed adjusted position relative to the base. It is contemplated that other conventional clamping means could be provided for adjusting the position of the slide plate 12 relative to the base 11, especially in a direction generally normal to the longitudinal axis of the base.

The end of the slide plate 12 remote from the base has an opening 15 extending therethrough in a vertical direction and the outer end of such slide plate is bifurcated by a generally vertical slit 16 extending from the outer end of the slide plate through the opening 15. The outer ends of the bifurcation are connected by a bolt and wing nut 17 or other adjustable fastener adapted to urge the bifurcations toward each other to form a clamp.

With particular reference to FIGS. 1-9, an upstanding post 18 is slidably received within the opening 15 in such a manner that tightening of the fastener 17 causes the bifurcated end of the slide plate 12 to clamp the post 18 and hold such post in fixed adjusted position. In some cases, the slit 16 and fastener 17 may be omitted and the lower end of the post 18 is permanently fixed within the opening 15 in any desired manner, as by nails, screws, adhesives, or the like.

An adjusting block 20 having a generally vertically disposed opening 21 of a size to slidably receive the post 18 is adjustably clamped to such post to provide for vertical adjustability of the block. In order to do this, one end of the block is bifurcated in a vertical di-

rection by providing a slit 22 extending from the end of the block through the opening 21 and such bifurcations are connected by an adjustable fastener 23 which clamps the adjusting block 20 onto the post 18 at a desired elevation above the slide plate 12.

The opposite end of the adjusting block 20 has an opening 24 disposed generally normal to the opening 21 and located in a substantially horizontal plane. Such opposite end is bifurcated generally horizontally by means of a slit 25 extending through the opening 24 and such bifurcations are connected by an adjustable fastener 26. An elongated dowel or rod 27 which is generally circular in cross-section is slidably received within the opening 24 and is adapted to be clamped in fixed adjusted position by the fastener 26.

As illustrated best in FIG. 3, one end of the dowel 27 is fixed to a relatively short anchor block 28 having a hinge 29 fixed to the upper portion thereof. An elongated swing member 30 has its upper central portion connected to the hinge 29 and may be swung from a position adjacent to the front of the anchor block, as illustrated in FIGS. 2, 3 and 5, to a position on top of the anchor block, as illustrated in FIGS. 4 and 7. A horizontally disposed opening 31 is located adjacent to each end of the swing member 30 outwardly of the ends of the anchor block 28 and each end of such swing member is bifurcated by means of a slit 32 extending from the end through the opening 31 and such bifurcations are connected by an adjustable fastener 33. Each of the openings 31 slidably receives a relatively short dowel or rod 34 which can be clamped in fixed adjusted position by the fasteners 33. Both dowels 34 are secured to a movable jaw member 35 which is adjustable toward and from the swing member 30.

As illustrated best in FIG. 6, the jaw member 35 is movable toward and away from the swing member 30 until the jaw member 35 is a fixed distance from the swing member. With particular reference to FIG. 8, a tapestry working frame 38 is provided having a pair of generally parallel side bars 39 (only one of which is shown) connected by a pair of spaced generally parallel rods 40 on which a base material 41 is mounted. Normally the base material is of woven construction and is wound on the rods 40 in such a manner that the base material can be shifted from one rod to the other. Each of the side bars 39 is provided with a depending T-shaped connector 42 having a downwardly extending central portion 43. The connector 42 is removably received between the swing member 30 and the jaw member 35 with the central portion 43 located between the dowels 34.

Normally the connector 42 frictionally engages both the swing member 30 and the jaw member 35 so that the tapestry working frame 38 is retained thereby. Since each of the side bars 39 is provided with a connector 42, the tapestry frame can be readily removed and turned end for end so that the connector at the opposite end of the working frame can be inserted between the swing member 30 and the jaw member 35.

In order to accommodate an embroidery hoop 44, a connector 45, FIG. 9, is provided having a central portion 46 and a pair of upper outwardly extending flanges 47. A clamping bar 48 is connected at opposite ends to the flanges 47 by adjustable fasteners 49. The embroidery hoop 44 which is of conventional construction, can be rotated to a desired position and then clamped between the bar 48 and the connector 45. After the

hoop has been clamped, the connector 45 is inserted between the swing member 30 and the jaw member 35 with the central portion 46 located intermediate the dowels 34 so that the hoop is supported by the stand.

With particular reference to FIG. 7, due to the inherent tolerances in the stand, particularly after the stand has been in use for some time, it is possible that the working frame would not remain in a substantially level position and therefore would be more difficult to work on. In order to adjust the relative positions between the swing member 30 and the jaw member 35, an adjusting screw 50 is located in the front face of the anchor block 28 and such screw functions as an adjustable stop for the swing member so that such swing member is disposed at a slight angle to a vertical plane which results in the working frame 38 being substantially horizontal. A second adjusting screw 51 is carried by the hinge plate which supports the swing member 30 and such adjusting screw 51 is adapted to engage the hinge plate carried by the anchor block 28 when the swing member 30 is swung upwardly to the top of the anchor block.

With particular reference to FIG. 10, another embodiment of the invention is disclosed having an up-standing post 55 which is similar to the post 18 and such post is provided with a horizontally disposed opening 56 of a size to slidably receive a dowel 57. The upper end of the post is bifurcated by means of a slit 58 and such bifurcations are connected by an adjustable fastener 59 for clamping the dowel 57 in fixed adjusted position. An anchor block 60 is fixed to one end of the dowel 57 and such anchor block has a hinge 61 mounted on its upper surface. The other side of the hinge 61 is connected directly to the upper surface of one of the side bars 39 of the tapestry frame 38 so that the tapestry frame is connected directly to the anchor block 60. In this embodiment the rods 40 of a tapestry frame can be slidably mounted in the openings at opposite ends of the side bars, or if desired a clamping bar 48, as previously described in connection with FIG. 9, can be adjustably connected to the top of the side bar carried by the hinge 61.

In the operation of the device, the base 11 is placed on a chair or other surface so that a craftsman can either sit directly on the base 11 or can sit on the chair and have the base disposed below his legs. As illustrated in FIG. 1, the support stand 10 is arranged for a righthanded person; however, it is noted that by removing the fasteners 14, turning the base end for end, reversing the position of the slide plate 12 on the base 11 and reapplying the fasteners, the apparatus could easily be changed to accommodate a lefthanded person.

When the craftsman is in position on the base 11, the slide plate 12 is adjusted inwardly or outwardly, depending upon the size of the craftsman, until the post 18 is located at a desired position and the fasteners 14 are tightened. After the slide plate 12 has been adjusted so that the post 18 is in a desired position, the adjusting block 20 is moved to a desired height on the post 18 and the fastener 23 is tightened to maintain the adjusting block in fixed adjusted position. At the same time the adjusting block 20 is being moved up and down the post, such block may be swung around the post in a horizontal plane to adjust the angular relationship of the working frame relative to the craftsman.

When a relatively small working frame, such as an embroidery hoop 44 or a small tapestry working frame is to be used, the dowel 27 is inserted from the crafts-

man's side of the adjusting block through the opening 24 in such a manner that the anchor block 28 is on the same side of the post 18 as the craftsman. In this position the connector 45 of a hoop 44 or the connector 42 of a tapestry working frame 38 is inserted between the swing member 30 and the jaw member 35 after which the dowel 27 is rotated so that the working frame is inclined at a comfortable angle for the craftsman. In this position the craftsman uses a needle and colored thread or yarn to stitch a desired design on the obverse side of the base material 41. When the particular color is to be terminated, the craftsman swings the swing member 30 about the hinge 29 to expose the reverse side of the base material so that the thread can be knotted and cut. Thereafter the swing member is returned to its original position and a different colored thread can be stitched on the obverse side of the base material.

When a relatively long tapestry working frame is to be used, the dowel 27 is removed from the adjusting block 20 and reinserted from the opposite side so that the anchor block 28 is located on the side of the post opposite the craftsman. After the dowel 27 has been moved lengthwise to a desired position and has been rotated to provide a desired angle to a horizontal plane, the swing member 30 is swung upwardly so that the swing member rests on top of the anchor block 28. In this position the connector 42 of the side bar 39 of the tapestry frame is inserted between the swing member 30 and the jaw member 35 so that the working area of the tapestry frame is disposed in front of the craftsman. It is noted that the position of the working area can be altered by movement of the dowel 27 through the adjusting block 20.

In fancy stitchery many stitches extend in a vertical direction or a horizontal direction or at an angle to either the right or the left. An experienced craftsman normally is capable of performing all of the stitches with the working frame in one position; however, a less experienced craftsman may have difficulty in making stitches in one or more of the directions. If this is the case, a less experienced craftsman can make stitches in the direction which is comfortable to him and thereafter the working frame can be easily removed from the stand and turned end for end so that the opposite end of the frame is supported by the stand in which position the craftsman can again make stitches in the direction which is comfortable but which are opposite to the stitches previously made.

In the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 10, the post 55 may be moved vertically through the opening 15 of the slide plate to provide for vertical adjustment of the working frame and the dowel 57 may be moved longitudinally through the opening 56 adjacent to the upper end of the post to provide for horizontal adjustment of the working frame. Rotation of the dowel 57 adjusts the rotational angularity of the working frame. This embodiment is primarily for use by more experienced craftsmen since the working frame is attached directly to the anchor block 28 and therefore the working frame is not reversible end for end as in the first embodiment.

Although the support stand 10 has been illustrated and described for use with a chair and with a craftsman sitting on the base 11, it is contemplated that the base 11 may be placed on a table or other supporting surface in front of a craftsman and the adjusting block 20 may be moved down the post 18 so that the working frame

38 or the embroidery hoop 44 is disposed at a convenient height for the craftsman.

In this structure the support stand 10 fully supports the working frame 38 or the hoop 44 in a fixed adjusted position which is comfortable to the craftsman so that the craftsman can use both hands for the work. Normally one hand is located above the base material 41 carried by the frame, while the other hand is located below such base material. When it is desired to change the color of the yarn, the working frame is swung upwardly about the hinge 29 or 61 so that the reverse side is accessible to the craftsman so that the yarn can be knotted and cut.

I claim:

1. A portable needlecraft stand for supporting a fancy stitchery working frame comprising a base normally located on a seat and underneath a craftsman, a slide plate having one end adjustably mounted on one end of said base, an upstanding post carried by the other end of said slide plate, the upper end of said post being disposed substantially above said slide plate, means on said post for slidably and rotatably supporting an elongated rod and for clamping said rod in adjusted position, anchor block means fixed to one end of said rod, and means for hingedly mounting a fancy stitchery working frame on said anchor block, whereby the working frame may be located in a position accessible to the craftsman and said working frame can be swung about said hinged mounting means to provide access to the reverse side of the material carried by the working frame.

2. The structure of claim 1 in which said means on said post for supporting said rod includes an adjusting block means having a first opening for receiving said post and a second opening for receiving said rod.

3. The structure of claim 1 in which said means for hingedly mounting a frame on said anchor block includes a swing member hingedly connected to said anchor block, a jaw member adjustably mounted for movement toward and from said swing member, and means for securing said jaw member in fixed adjusted position relative to said swing member.

4. The structure of claim 3 in which said means for adjusting said jaw member relative to said swing member includes spaced rods carried by said jaw member and extending through openings in said swing member, and fastener means carried by said swing member for securing said rods in adjusted position.

5. The structure of claim 4 in which said fancy stitchery working frame includes at least one connector receivable between said jaw member and said swing member, said connector having a central portion located between said spaced rods.

6. A portable needlecraft stand for supporting a fancy stitchery working frame comprising a base, a slide plate having one end adjustably mounted on one end of said base, means for securing said slide plate in fixed adjusted position, an upstanding post carried by the other end of said slide plate, adjusting block means having a first opening slidably and rotatably receiving said post, means for securing said adjusting block means in fixed position on said post, said block means having a second opening disposed generally normal to said first opening, elongated rod means slidably and rotatably mounted within said second opening, means for securing said rod means in fixed adjusted position, anchor block means fixed to one end of said rod means,

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a swing member connected to said anchor block means by a hinge so that the swing member can move from a position adjacent the front of said anchor block means to a position adjacent the top thereof, a jaw member spaced from said swing member, and means adjustably connecting said jaw member to said swing member to provide a space for receiving and frictionally engaging a fancy stitchery working frame, whereby said working frame is supported by said stand in a manner that the frame can be removed and turned end for end and then reinserted and said working frame can be hinged upwardly to provide access to the reverse side thereof.

7. A portable stand for supporting a fancy stitchery working frame comprising a base located along a gen-

erally horizontal plane and having a portion adapted to be sat on by a craftsman, upstanding post means carried by said base, support means movably mounted on said post means and being located in a plane generally parallel to the plane of said base, anchor block means fixed to one end of said support means, and means for hingedly mounting a fancy stitchery working frame on said anchor block means, whereby the working frame may be moved to a position so as to be readily accessible for the craftsman and said working frame can be swung about said hinged mounting means to provide access to both sides of said working frame.

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