Feb. 13, 1968 O. BULMAN 3,368,786

PAINTER'S EASEL

Filed Dec. 23, 1965 4 Sheets-Sheet 1

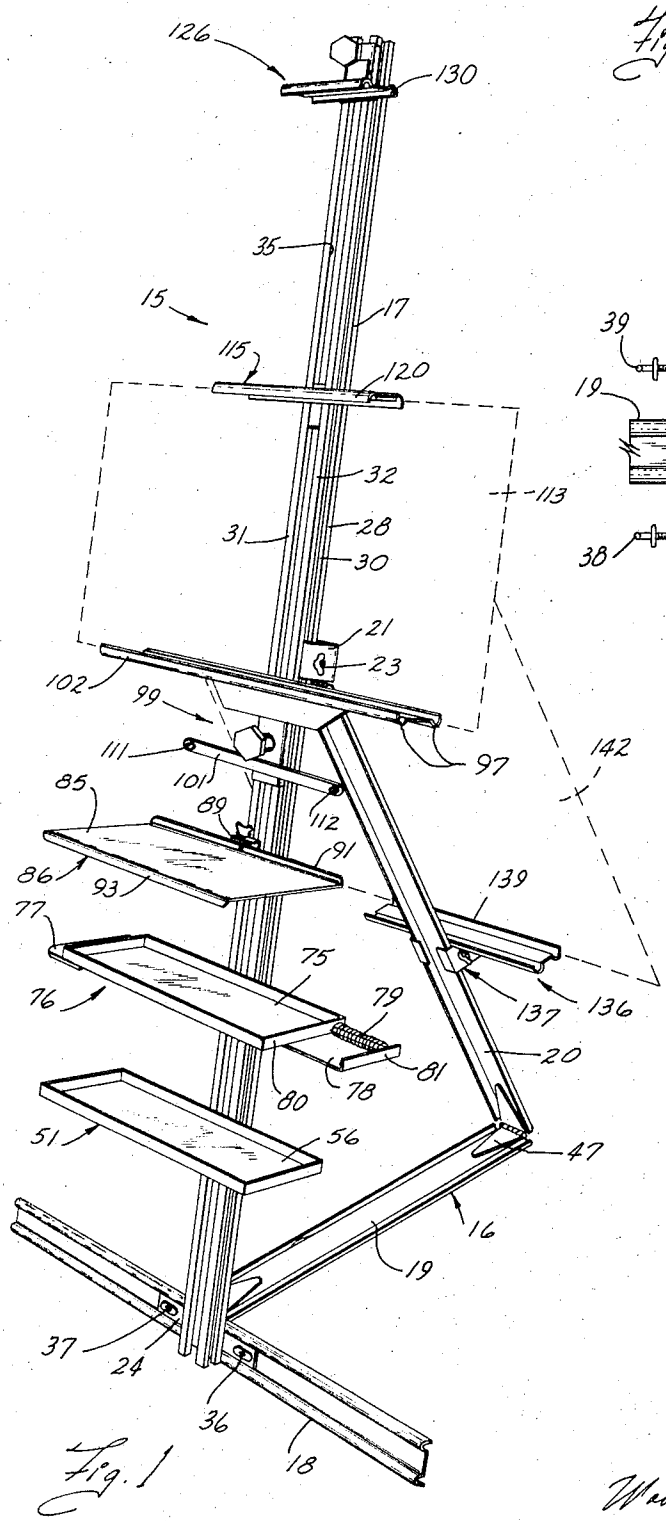
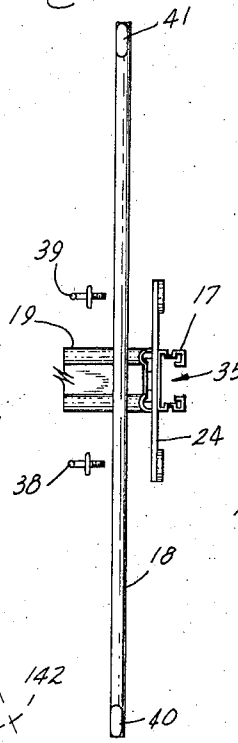


Fig. 1

Fig. 12



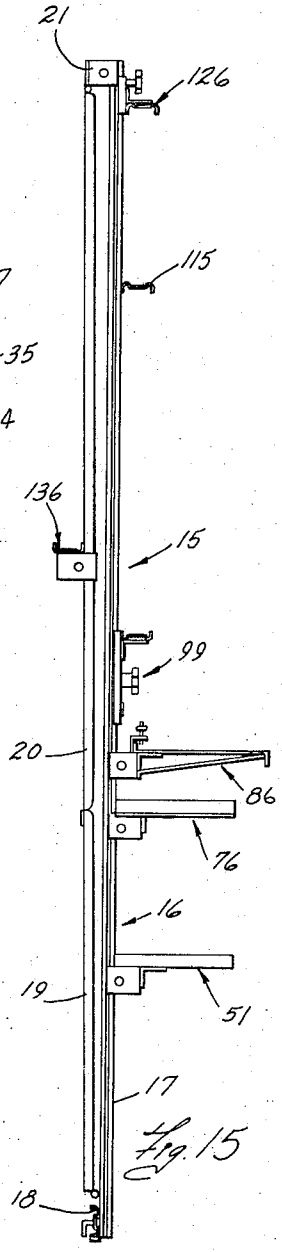


Fig. 15

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PAINTER'S EASEL

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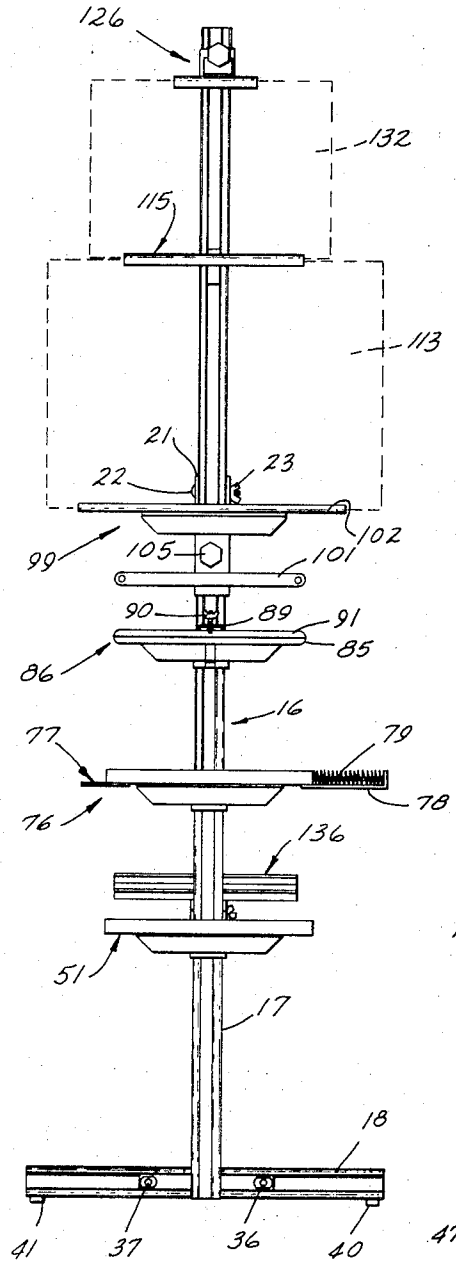


Fig. 3

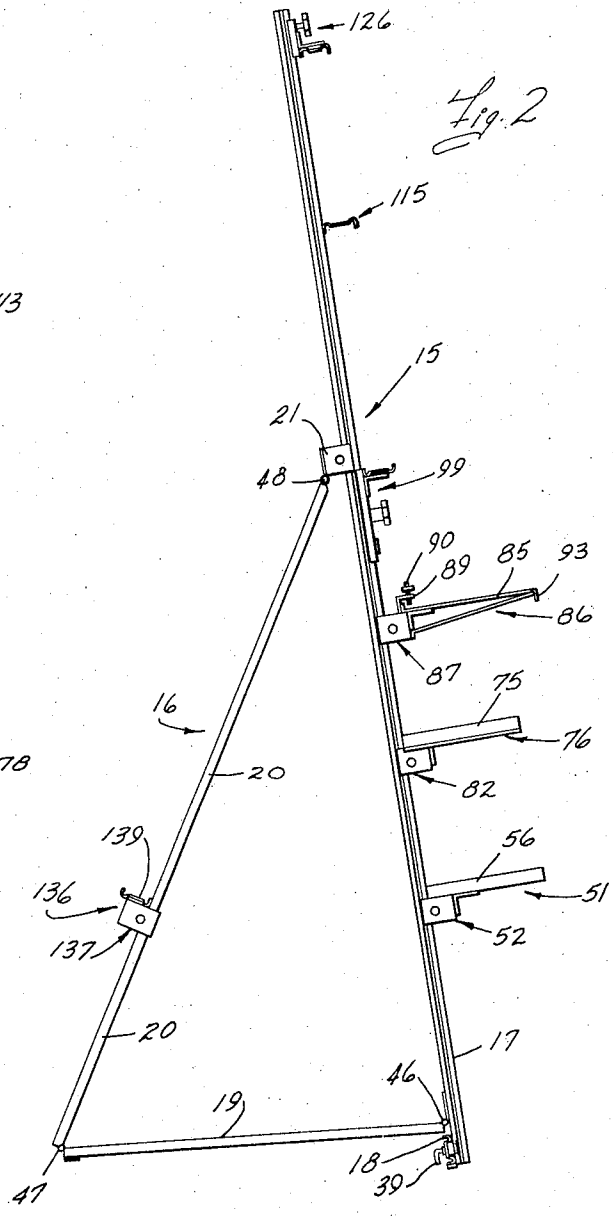


Fig. 2

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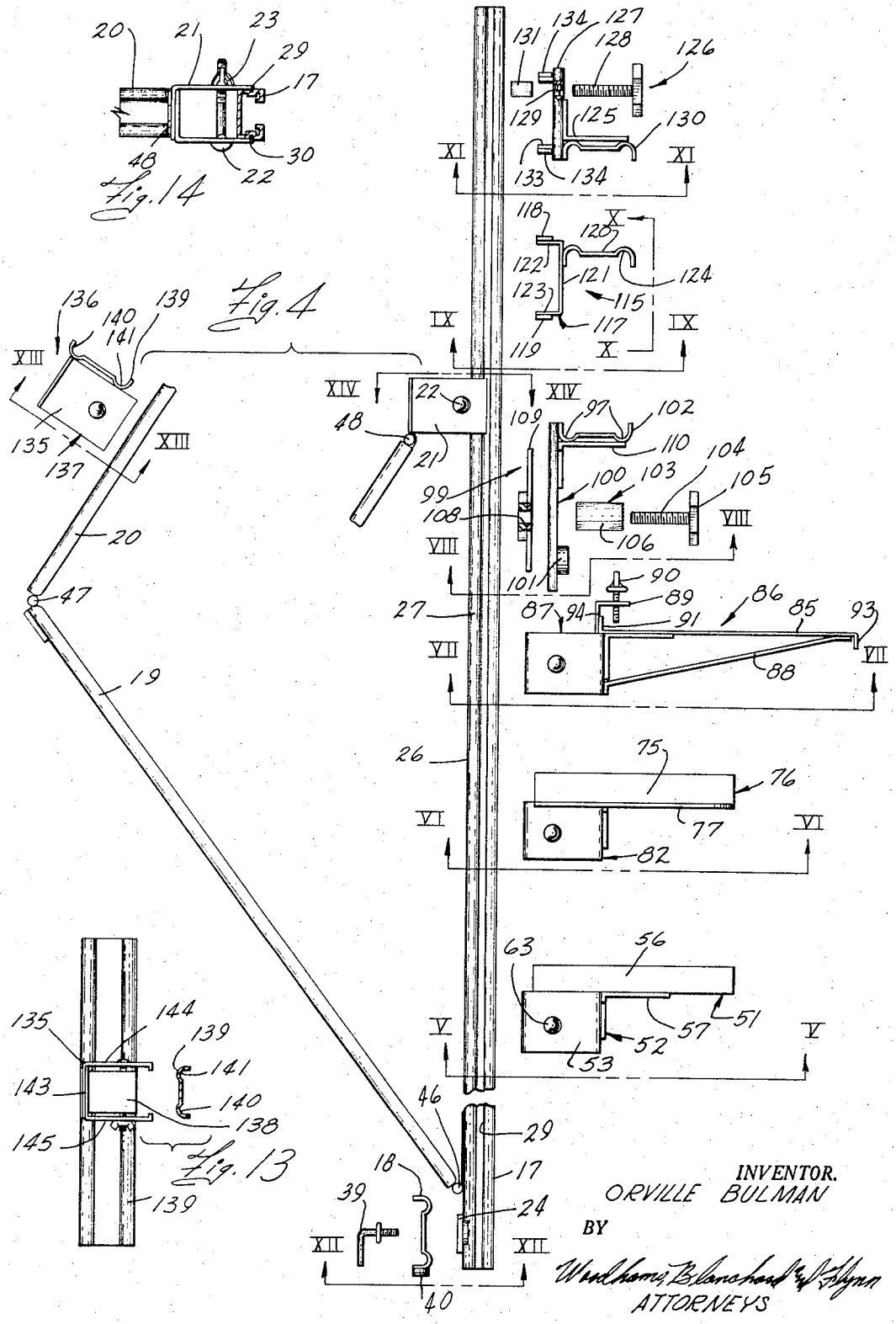
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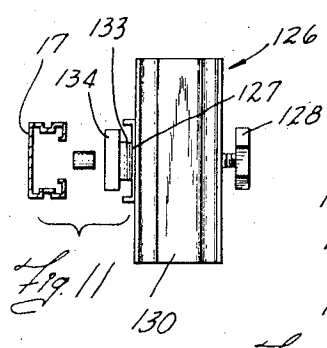


Fig. 11

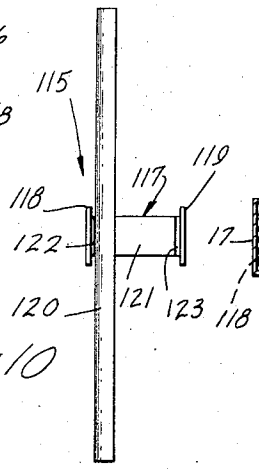


Fig. 10

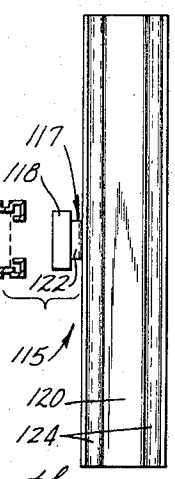


Fig. 9

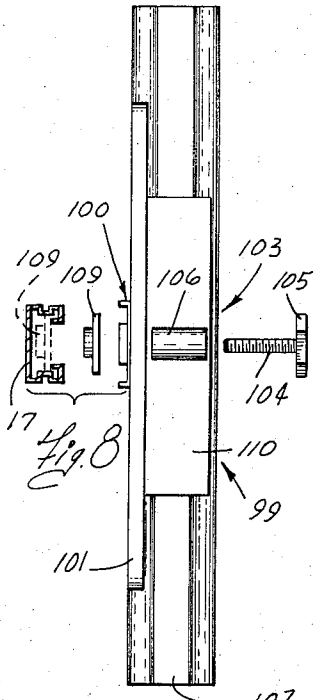


Fig. 8

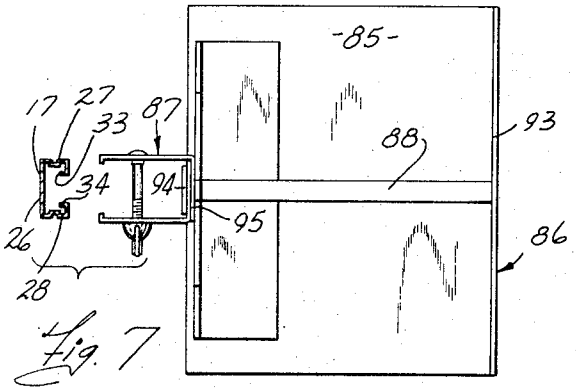


Fig. 7

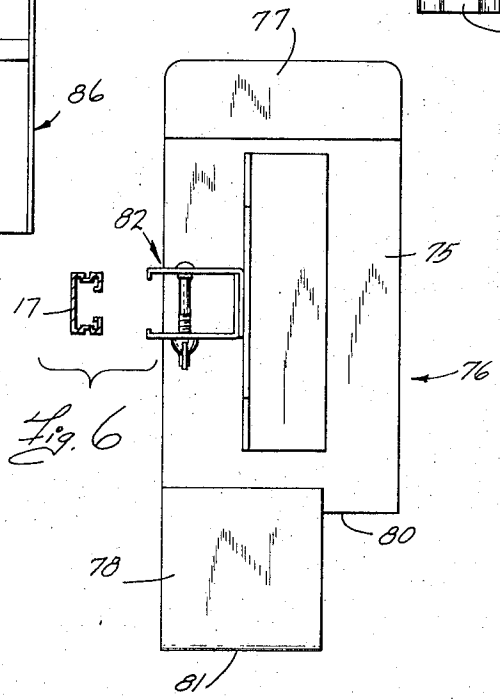


Fig. 6

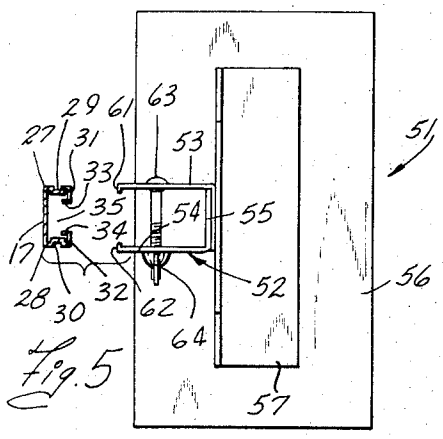


Fig. 5

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United States Patent Office 3,368,786 Patented Feb. 13, 1968

3,368,786

PAINTER'S EASEL

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Filed Dec. 23, 1965, Ser. No. 515,902
5 Claims. (Cl. 248—455)

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A painter's easel having an upright standard, secured near its lower end to a base bar, and a pair of brace bars hingedly connected at one end of each and hingedly secured to the standard at their other ends. The upper brace bar is also adjustably secured to the standard for movement lengthwise thereof, whereby the two brace bars can be moved between positions snugly adjacent the standard and positions in which they are at acute angles with respect to the standard, thereby providing a rearward support for the standard. A variety of brackets, trays, support members and the like are adjustably and removably secured to the standard.

This invention relates in general to a painter's easel and, more particularly, to a type thereof which is sturdy in construction and capable of quick and easy dismantling for storage or transport.

Although painter's easels have been used for as long as history records, the existing easels, with which I have become acquainted, still have many drawbacks including lack of adequate adjustability, difficulty to store, difficulty to clean, instability in their upright positions, and inadequacy for holding the various types of materials and equipment used by the painter. It is not uncommon for a painter to use a table or other auxiliary device in combination with existing easels in order to perform his painting activities. This does not create a particularly serious problem when the painter is working in his own studio. However, if the painter wishes to conduct painting operations away from his studio, he is faced with two serious problems.

First, the known typical painter's easel is so clumsy and difficult to handle, he cannot use it away from his studio. Accordingly, the average painter who has a studio, usually equips himself with a small portable easel which, as a rule, is even more unstable and less satisfactory in almost all respects than the one which he uses in his studio, with the single exception that it can be taken with him. Second, the artist finds himself completely without any type of equipment upon which to place his paints, paint brushes, his cleaning rags and the rest of his equipment which is essential to his work.

Another very frustrating problem which many painters often encounter concerns the temporary and safe disposition of wet canvas. Many painters work with two canvases at the same time. This permits them to let part of the paint on one canvas to partially dry while they are working on another canvas. Then, they return to the first canvas while the second canvas is partially drying. This procedure greatly reduces the possibility for smearing or running of colors which usually reduces the quality of the painting. However, the wet painting must be kept in a position where it will not be disturbed or the very purpose

of working with two canvases may be defeated. Thus, safe disposition of the second canvas has always been a problem.

Accordingly, a primary object of this invention has been the provision of an improved painter's easel which is completely self-contained in that it includes all of the auxiliary equipment necessary to accommodate and support the materials normally used by a painter while performing his work.

A further object of this invention has been the provision of a painter's easel, as aforesaid, which can be easily cleaned, which can be easily and quickly collapsed into a relatively small and easily handled package that can be transported in a conventional passenger vehicle.

A further object of this invention has been the provision of an easel, as aforesaid, which is sturdy in structure, unusually stable in its upright position and which carries an auxiliary support for a wet canvas.

Other objects and purposes of this invention will become apparent to persons familiar with this type of equipment upon reading the following specification and examining the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a painter's easel embodying the invention.

FIGURE 2 is a side elevational view of said painter's easel.

FIGURE 3 is a front elevational view of said painter's easel.

FIGURE 4 is a broken, exploded and side elevational view of said painter's easel in an enlarged scale.

FIGURE 5 is an exploded, sectional view taken along the line V—V in FIGURE 4.

FIGURE 6 is an exploded, sectional view taken along the line VI—VI in FIGURE 4.

FIGURE 7 is an exploded, sectional view taken along the line VII—VII in FIGURE 4.

FIGURE 8 is an exploded, sectional view taken along the line VIII—VIII in FIGURE 4.

FIGURE 9 is an exploded, sectional view taken along the line IX—IX in FIGURE 4.

FIGURE 10 is a side view of part of the structure appearing in FIGURE 9.

FIGURE 11 is an exploded, sectional view taken along the line XI—XI in FIGURE 4.

FIGURE 12 is an exploded, sectional view taken along the line XII—XII in FIGURE 4.

FIGURE 13 is an exploded, sectional view taken along the line XIII—XIII in FIGURE 4.

FIGURE 14 is an exploded, sectional view taken along the line XIV—XIV in FIGURE 4.

FIGURE 15 is a collapsed side view of said easel with some of the attachments removed.

For convenience in description, the terms "upper," "lower" and words of similar import will have reference to the easel of the invention as appearing in FIGURES 1 and 2. The terms "front," "rear" and words of similar import will have reference to the right and left sides respectively of the easel and parts thereof as appearing in FIGURE 2. The terms "inner," "outer" and derivatives thereof will have reference to the geometric center of said easel and parts thereof.

Summary of the invention

The objects and purposes of this invention, including those set forth above, have been met by providing a paint-

er's easel having an upright standard secured near its lower end to a base bar near the center thereof. A pair of brace bars are hingedly secured to each other at one end of each and the other ends of said brace bars are hingedly secured to the standard. That is, one brace bar is hingedly connected near the lower end of said standard and the other end of the other brace bar is adjustably secured to the standard for movement lengthwise thereof, whereby the two brace bars can be moved between positions adjacent to and parallel with the standard and positions in which they are at acute angles with respect to the standard, whereby they provide the rearward support for the standard.

A variety of brackets, trays, support members and the like are adjustably and removably secured to the standard and to one of the brace bars for holding or supporting the various materials used by the painter while performing his work. Depending upon the circumstances, some or all of the various article-supporting members may be used.

Detailed description

The painter's easel **15** (FIGURE 1), which illustrates a preferred embodiment, comprises a frame **16** having an elongated, rigid and metallic standard **17** having an elongated, rigid and metallic base bar **18**, which is secured to, and transversely of, the lower end of the standard **17**. A pair of articulated brace bars **19** and **20** provide the rearward support for the standard **17**. That is, the brace bars **19** and **20** are hingedly connected to the standard **17** and to each other.

More particularly, the standard **17** is substantially U-shaped (FIGURES 5, 9, 11 and 12). The rearward wall **26** (FIGURE 5) of the standard **17** is substantially flat and has a pair of side walls **27** and **28** extending frontwardly therefrom. The side walls **27** and **28** each have inwardly offset portions defining slots **29** and **30**, respectively, preferably centered thereon and extending the full length of the standard **17**. A pair of flanges **31** and **32** extend inwardly from the frontwardmost edges of the side walls **27** and **28** and have at their inwardmost edges a pair of inwardly projecting, parallel extensions **33** and **34** spaced from the rear wall **26** and from each other to define a lengthwise opening **35**.

The base bar **18**, which is substantially channel-shaped (FIGURES 1 and 12), has a pair of holes through the bottom wall of the channel, preferably equidistant from the center point of the base bar **18**, for the reception of a pair of screws **38** and **39** which are threadedly engaged with the threaded holes **36** and **37**, respectively, in the base bar holder **24**, which is rigidly secured to the standard **17** to secure the base bar **18** rigidly to the standard **17**. A pair of pads **40** and **41** are mounted on the lower edge of the channel **18** near its ends.

The channel-shaped brace bar **19** (FIGURE 2) is hingedly connected to the standard **17** adjacent the base bar **18** by hinge **46**. The outer ends of the brace bars **19** and **20** are connected to each other by hinge **47**, and the uppermost end of the brace bar **20** is hingedly connected to the bracket **21** by hinge **48**. The bracket **21** is slideable on the standard **17** so that hinges **46**, **47** and **48** allow the brace bars **19** and **20** to move between the positions shown in FIGURES 2 and 15. The total length of brace bars **19** and **20** is slightly less than the total length of the standard **17** so that the bracket **21** does not leave the slots **29** and **30** while in the collapsed position. The U-shaped bracket member **21** (FIGURE 14) has a screw **22** and wing nut **23** for releasably securing the bracket member **21** to the standard **17**.

Brace bar **20** is preferably substantially longer than the brace bar **19**. Thus, when they are in the acute angle relationship of FIGURE 2, the standard **17** and brace bar **20** are both in substantially upright positions.

A plurality of attachments, such as the lower tray assembly **51** (FIGURES 4 and 5) are adjustably and removably mounted on the standard **17**. The assembly **51** includes a U-shaped bracket assembly **52**, which is slideably mounted on the standard **17**. Specifically, the bracket assembly **52** has a web **55** and a pair of substantially parallel flanges **53** and **54**. The web **55** is secured to an angle brace **57** which is in turn secured to the bottom of, and is the main support of, the tray **56**.

The flanges **53** and **54** have, at their free edges, a pair of inwardly projecting flange portions **61** and **62**, respectively, which are slideably receivable into the slots **29** and **30**, respectively, in the side walls **27** and **28**, respectively, of the standard **17**. A screw **63** extends through flanges **53** and **54** and is engaged by wing nut **64** for slideably securing said bracket **52** to the standard **17**.

The second tray assembly **76** (FIGURE 6) is slideably positioned above the first tray assembly **51** and may be constructed like the tray assembly **51**. Tray assembly **76** has, however, a pair of platforms **77** and **78** secured to and extending sidewardly from the underside of the tray **75**. The platform **78** has a spring **79** (FIGURE 1) extending from the right wall **80** of the tray **75** to the wall **81** of the platform **78**. The spring serves the purpose of holding the painter's pencils and brushes.

The tray assembly **76** is slideably secured to the standard **17** by a bracket assembly **82** which may be identical to the bracket assembly **52** on the tray assembly **51**.

A tablet holder **86** (FIGURES 4 and 7) is slideably positioned above the tray member **76** on the standard **17** and includes a bracket assembly **87** which may be identical to the bracket assemblies **52** and **82**. The tablet tray **85** is secured to the bracket assembly **87**, which may be identical to the bracket assembly **52**. However, tray assembly **86** has a brace **88** extending between and secured to its front and rear ends. The web **95** of the bracket assembly **87** has an L-shaped bracket **94** secured thereto and extending upwardly therefrom so the leg portion **89** extends over the rearward portion of the tray **85**. The leg portion **89** has a hole through which a thumb screw **90** is threadably received to secure a tablet or the like upon the tray **85**.

The tray **85** has an upwardly extending rear wall **91** and downwardly extending skirt **93** along the front edge thereof. The downwardly extending skirt **93** gives added strength to the outwardmost edge of the tray **85**.

The attachment **99** is slideably positioned above the tablet holder **86** and includes a towel holder **101** and a lower canvas support **102**. More particularly, the attachment **99** has a bracket **100** (FIGURES 4 and 8) which is slideable along the standard **17** and adjustably secured thereto by a bracket assembly **103**. The assembly **103** includes a clamping member **109** which is positioned within the opening **35** in the standard member **17**, as shown in broken lines in FIGURE 8. A screw **104**, having a knob **105** on one end thereof, is slideably received through the sleeve **106** and threadedly enters the threaded opening **108** in the clamping member **109**.

The lower channel-shaped support **102** for a canvas **113** is secured to the bracket **100** by means of an L-shaped member **110** so that the canvas support **102** is held in a substantial horizontal position transverse of the standard **17**. The support **102** has two lengthwise grooves **97** for receiving the lower edge of the canvas.

The towel holder **101** is secured to the bracket **100** below the sleeve **106** and extends transversely of the standard **17**. The outwardmost ends of the towel holder **101** have openings **111** and **112** therethrough.

The upper canvas support **115** is positioned above the attachment **99** and is slideable along the standard **17**, but it does not have a means for rigidly securing it to the standard **17**. Specifically, the support **115** (FIGURES 4, 9 and 10) comprises a substantially U-shaped bracket **117** having metal strips **118** and **119** rigidly secured to the parallel legs **122** and **123** which extend through the slot **35** in the standard **17**. The metal strips **118** and **119** are wider than the slot **35** to prevent disengagement of

the support **115**, as shown in broken lines in FIGURE 9. A channel-shaped member **120** is secured along one edge thereof to the web **121** of the U-shaped member **117** and extends transversely of the standard **17**. The upper support **120** has two lengthwise grooves **124** into which the edges of the canvas or other sheet material are receivable.

The attachment **126** is slideably positioned above the upper support **115**. A U-shaped bracket **133**, which may be similar to bracket **117** on the attachment **115**, includes the plate **127** and has a pair of metal strips **134** secured to the ends of said bracket **133** designed to slideably fit within the opening **35**. The plate **127** has a threaded opening **129** therethrough for the reception of a screw and knob assembly **128**, which is similar to the screw **104** and knob **105** on the attachment **99**. A plastic cap **131** is placed on the end of the screw **128** so that when the screw is turned to secure the bracket **127** to the standard **17**, the plastic member **131** will bear against the rearward wall **26** of the standard **17** and the pressure exerted thereon by the screw **128** will hold the bracket **127** in place.

A channel-shaped member **130** is secured along one edge thereof to the bracket **127** by an L-shaped brace **125** and extends transversely of the standard **17**. The channel-shaped member **130** is parallel with the channel-shaped member **102** and engages the upper edge of a copy sheet **132** (FIGURE 3), which is supported on the member **120**.

The attachment **136** is positioned on the brace bar **20** and is slideable with respect thereto. More particularly, the attachment **136** includes a bracket assembly **137** including a U-shaped member **135**. Another U-shaped member **138** (FIGURE 13) is secured to the web **143**. The upper leg of the U-shaped member **138** extends substantially horizontally between the flanges **144** and **145**, and serves as a platform for a channel-shaped member **139** which is secured thereto. The channel-shaped member **139** has dual lengthwise grooves **140** and **141** into which the edges of a canvas **142** (FIGURE 1) or other sheet material can be placed.

The bracket assembly **137** has a clamping mechanism which may be identical to that of the bracket assembly **52**.

Assembly and operation

The assembly and operation of the easel **15** will probably be evident from the foregoing descriptive material and the drawings. However, to insure a complete understanding of the invention, the same will be briefly described. Briefly, the easel will normally be shipped from one place to another with the base bar **18** and all of the various attachments removed from the standard **17**. Also, the bracket **21** will be in its upwardmost position upon the standard **17** so that the brace bars **19** and **20** will be close to and substantially parallel with the standard **17** as shown in FIGURE 15. Also, the attachment **136** will be removed from the brace bar **20**. The aforesaid attachments and the base bar **18** are, generally speaking, of such size and shape that they can be placed along the lengthwise extent of the standard **17** during shipment and thereby greatly minimize the space required for the entire easel assembly.

When it becomes desirable to use the easel **15**, the base bar **18** is secured to the lower end of the standard **17** after which the nut **23** on the bracket **21** is released so that the bracket **21** can be moved downwardly along the standard **17** until the brace bars **19** and **20** are approximately in the positions shown in FIGURE 2. The thumb nut **23** is then tightened and the main frame **16** of the painter's easel is ready for mounting of the various attachments thereon. Generally speaking, these attachments are mounted by sliding them onto the upper end of the standard **17** and moving them downwardly along said standard until they are in their desired positions. However, some of the attachments, such as those shown in FIGURES 5, 6 and 7, for example, can be mounted upon the standard **17** from the side thereof which greatly reduces the problems of mounting them when the upper part of the easel is supporting the canvas.

This assembly and packing of the easel can be quickly and easily effected by the reversing of the foregoing procedures. Also, adjustment of the tilt of the standard **17** can be quickly and easily effected merely by loosening the thumb nut **23** and adjusting the location of the bracket **21** along the standard **17**.

The two grooves in the channel-shaped canvas supports **102** and **120** make it possible to support the canvas in any one of four different positions. This can be very helpful where the painter is receiving glare off the canvas indirectly from the sun or some other form of illumination.

Although a particular preferred embodiment of the invention has been described above in detail for illustrative purposes, it will be recognized that variations or modifications of such disclosure, which come within the scope of the appended claims, are fully contemplated.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A painter's easel comprising:

an elongated, rigid and metallic standard of substantially tubular cross section having a pair of substantially parallel slots extending lengthwise on opposite sides thereof;

an elongated, rigid and metallic base bar having connecting means near the center thereof for rigidly securing same to the lower end of said standard;

a pair of brace bars hingedly connected to each other at one end of each for movement between first positions substantially perpendicular to each other and second positions in substantial lengthwise alignment with each other, one of said brace bars being hingedly connected at its other end to said standard near the lower end thereof and the other end of the other brace bar having means rigidly and adjustably gripping said standard between the ends thereof, the combined lengths of said brace bars when in said aligned positions being not materially greater than the length of said standard;

a pair of bracket means securely and adjustably connected to said standard for engaging the opposite edges of and thereby holding therebetween a sheet of semirigid material, said bracket means being able to grip and hold said sheet material in a plurality of different angular positions with respect to said standard; and

shelf means adjustably mounted upon said standard beneath said bracket means, said shelf means having clamp means adapted for rigidly and releasably engaging said standard, said clamp means having flanges slideably received into said slots and holding means urging said flanges toward each other.

2. An easel according to claim **1**, wherein said bracket means are vertically spaced and each has a pair of grooves substantially parallel with said base bar, each groove being adapted to receive an edge of said sheet material, whereby said angular positions are achieved.

3. An easel according to claim **1**, wherein:

said bracket means are vertically spaced along said standard; and

including a rod member affixed to and spaced below the lower bracket means, said rod member being parallel with said base bar.

4. An easel according to claim **1**, wherein:

said shelf means includes a pair of similar trays each having a pair of projecting flanges adjustably secured to said standard; and

third bracket means adjustably mounted upon the other brace bar for engaging the lower edge of a sheet of semirigid material.

5. An easel according to claim **4**, wherein:

one of said trays includes spiral gripping means adapted to grip paint brushes; and

the other tray includes clamp means adapted to grip sheet material supported thereon.

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