UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BIPOD REST FOR FIREARMS.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN S. BUTLER, captain, Ordnance Department, U. S. A., a citizen of the United States, stationed at 5 Washington, D. C., have invented an Improvement in Bipod Rests for Firearms, of which the following is a specification.

The invention described herein may be used by the Government, or any of its officers or employees in prosecution of work for the Government, or by any other person in the United States, without payment of any royalty thereon.

This invention relates to improvements in 15 bipod rests for fire arms and refers more particularly to supporting rests for the forward end of a machine rifle for use when the operator is firing from a prone position with the butt end of the gun supported on the shoulder.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a simple and inexpensive device of the foregoing character, having means for detachable engagement with the barrel of the gun, and which may be readily collapsed and folded against the gun when not in use.

With the foregoing and other important objects in view, my invention comprises the new and useful details of construction and arrangement, which will be described hereafter, illustrated in the annexed drawings and pointed out more specifically in the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a fragmentary side elevation of a machine rifle with my bipod rest attached thereto in its folded position.

Fig. 2 is a front elevation of my bipod in its unfolded or operating position, as detached from the gun.

Fig. 3 is a side elevation of my invention, also shown in the unfolded position.

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the folded device detached from the gun barrel.

Fig. 5 is a vertical section of my bipod, the view being taken on line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a horizontal section of my device, the view being taken on line 6—6 of Fig. 2.

Referring now to the drawings, it will be seen that I have provided my device with a clamping head 6 adapted to receive the barrel of the machine rifle A, a co-acting clamp plate 6 being hinged to the head at 7 to secure the barrel in place. Plate 6 is provided with a pivoted bolt 8 adapted to enter between bifurcations 9 formed on lip 10 of the head and a wing nut 11 is provided on bolt 8 to draw the plate 6 firmly against the gun barrel in an obvious manner.

Clamping head 5 is centrally and vertically pivoted by means of a pin 12 to an inverted U-shaped traverse bracket 13, which in turn is transversely pivoted by pin 14 between a pair of up-standing ears 15 provided on central bracket 16, thus allowing the central bracket to swing about pin 14. The ears of the traverse bracket are provided with stops 15 formed integral therewith in position to engage the upper face of the central bracket when the central bracket has been swung to the vertical or unfolded position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1 and in full lines in Fig. 3.

Central bracket 16 is provided with spaced-apart transverse flanges 20 between which are pivoted at 23 a pair of normally diverging legs 21. Legs 21 are preferably formed of channel material with the flanges directed inwardly and are adapted in their open position to be swung outward at the bottom to support the gun laterally. Stop bridges 23 are formed on the flanges 20 to engage the legs to limit the spread thereof.

As a means for holding the legs in the spread position, I provide a pair of similar folding links 25 pivoted centrally of the legs at 22, the outer ends of said links being pivoted to the legs 21 at 23. It will be seen by reference to Fig. 6 that I have provided oppositely disposed thick washers 34 and thin washers 35 about pivoting pins 33 adjacent links 25 to properly space the links so that they will fold substantially parallel between the compressed legs. Stop lugs 30 on the outer ends of links 25 prevent the links from swinging downward at their inner ends beyond the horizontal, said lugs engaging the central section of the channeled legs when the links have been swung to such an extent. Feet are provided on legs 21 to prevent the device from settling into soft ground and points are provided thereon to prevent slipping.

In order to bring my device into the folded position shown in Figs. 1 and 4, the legs 21
and central bracket 16 are folded rearwardly about hinge pin 14. The legs are likewise drawn together about pivoting pins 22, the links 25 folding upward at their inner ends. As a means for engaging the legs in the compressed position, I provide a spring clip 36 riveted, or otherwise attached, to one of the legs 21, a lip being provided thereon to spring into engagement with the other leg 21 when the legs are compressed. As a means for engaging the thus folded legs in the desired position adjacent to and parallel with the gun barrel, I provide an extension clip 37 fixed to clip 36, the same being provided with spring lips 38 in position to engage in an obvious manner about the gas cylinder tube C of the machine rifle A, when raised adjacent thereto.

From the foregoing description it will be readily seen that I have provided a simple and inexpensive bipod for machine rifles, which may be detachably fixed to a gun barrel for use therewith, or compactly folded and held in such folded position when not in use.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. In combination with a machine rifle, a rest therefor having a clamp detachably engageable with the rifle barrel, an inverted U-shaped traverse bracket vertically pivoted to said clamp, a transversely hinged bracket carried by the traverse bracket, a pair of normally diverging legs longitudinally pivoted to the hinged bracket, and foldable spacing links between said legs in position to normally hold the legs in a spread relation.

2. In combination with a machine rifle, a rest therefor having a clamp detachably engageable with the rifle barrel, an inverted U-shaped traverse bracket vertically pivoted to said clamp, a transversely hinged bracket carried by the traverse bracket, a pair of normally diverging legs longitudinally pivoted to the hinged bracket, a pair of oppositely disposed normally aligned spacing links pivoted together at their inner ends and having their outer ends pivoted to the legs and the outer ends of said links having stops positioned to contact with the legs to limit downward rotation of the links.

3. In combination with a machine rifle, a rest therefor having a clamp engageable with the rifle barrel, an inverted U-shaped traverse bracket vertically pivoted to said clamp, a transversely hinged bracket carried by the traverse bracket, a pair of normally diverging legs longitudinally pivoted to the hinged bracket, a spring clip on one of said legs having a lip positioned to detachably engage the other leg when the legs are compressed together, and foldable spacing links between said legs in position to normally hold the legs in a spread relation.

4. In combination with a machine rifle, a rest therefor having a clamp engageable with the rifle barrel, an inverted U-shaped traverse bracket vertically pivoted to said clamp, a transversely hinged bracket carried by the traverse bracket, a pair of normally diverging legs longitudinally pivoted to the hinged bracket, a spring clip on one of said legs having a lip positioned to detachably engage the other leg when the legs are compressed together, and a second clip carried by the legs having lips in position to detachably engage the gun when the compressed legs are folded upward adjacent the gun.

5. A bipod, including a clamp for a rifle barrel, legs connected to the clamp, and a clip carried by one of the legs and having means to detachably engage the other leg when the legs are brought together and also having means to detachably engage the rifle when the legs are folded adjacent thereto.

6. A bipod support for a firearm, including legs and a clip carried by one of the legs and having means to detachably engage the other leg when the legs are brought together and also having means to detachably engage the rifle when the legs are folded adjacent thereto.

7. A bipod, consisting of a barrel engaging member, an intermediate member connected thereto, a pair of flanges formed on said intermediate member, twin supporting legs mounted between said flanges, and a clip carried by one of said legs and having means to engage the other leg and a portion of the gun for securing the legs in closed position.

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