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ARTIST'S EASEL

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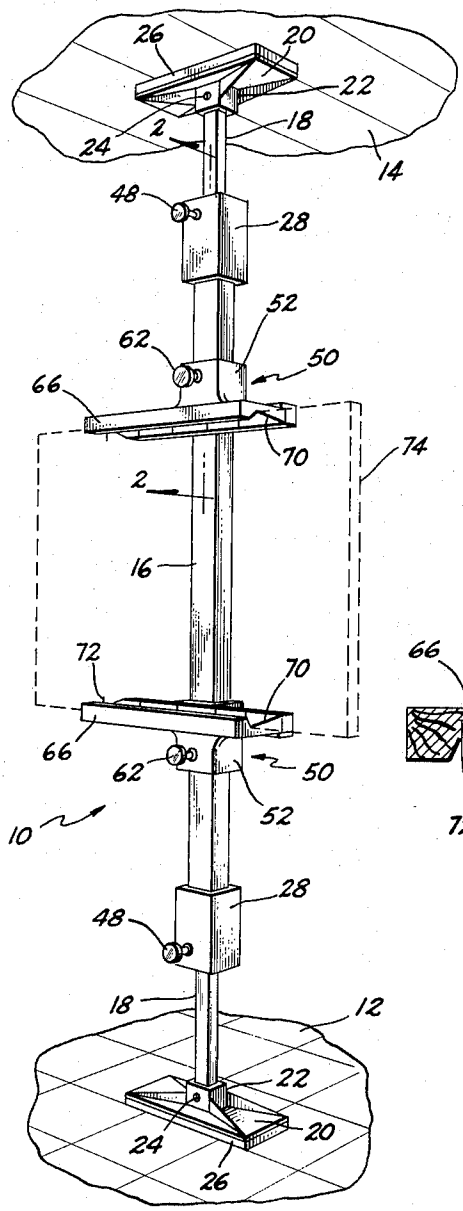


Fig 1

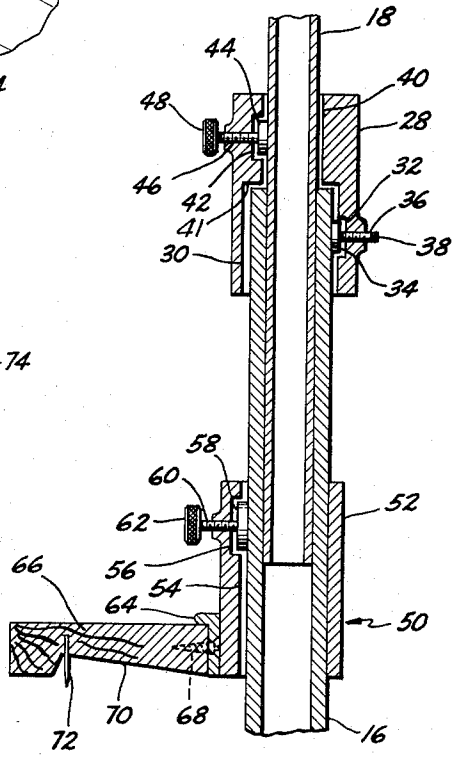


Fig 2

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ARTIST'S EASEL

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This invention relates generally to artists' easels, and pertains more particularly to an easel that can be firmly held in place between the floor and ceiling of a room.

Accordingly, one object of the invention is to provide an easel that is adjustable in length so that it can be retained in a vertical position by pressurally engaging its lower and upper ends against the floor and ceiling of any conventional room, even though one room may vary somewhat in height from another.

Another object of the invention is to provide an easel that can be quickly positioned or taken down as circumstances dictate. In other words, it is contemplated that in many instances one might wish to use the easel for only a few hours and then place the easel in temporary storage until needed again. An easel constructed in accordance with the teachings of the present invention has considerable versatility and such an objective is readily realized.

A further object of the invention is to provide an easel that will not be knocked over easily.

Since it is planned that the easel be moved about, another object is to provide an easel that is of lightweight construction. More specifically, the invention has for an aim the fabrication of the easel largely from extruded aluminum and to thereby render the over-all easel structure quite light in weight.

Inasmuch as it is envisioned that the easel will be made of soft ductile metal, the invention has for another object the preventing of damage to such relatively soft metal when making needed adjustments.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide an independent adjustment of the brackets for holding the canvas or drawing paper.

Because an easel of the type envisaged will find especial utility when used in one's home, still a further object of the invention is to provide an easel that can be manufactured at a relatively low cost, thereby encouraging its purchase by individuals. More particularly, the invention contemplates the use of certain duplicate parts which need not be fabricated with small clearances or close tolerances.

These and other objects and advantages of my invention will more fully appear from the following description, made in connection with the accompanying drawing, wherein like reference characters refer to the same or similar parts throughout the several views and in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of my easel shown in actual use, the drawing held thereby having been depicted in phantom outline, and

FIGURE 2 is a sectional view taken in the direction of line 2—2 for the purpose of illustrating how the telscoping members can be readily clamped into an adjusted position.

Referring now in detail to the drawing, the easel that has been selected for exemplifying the invention has been designated in its entirety by the reference numeral **10**. Fragmentarily pictured is a floor **12** and a ceiling **14** of a typical room in which the easel **10** is apt to be used.

The easel **10** includes a front or central tubular member **16** having a rectangular cross-section. Telescopically received in the opposite end of the first or central tubular member **16** are additional tubular members **18** which are identical to each other. The tubular members **16** and **18** are preferably of extruded aluminum which is readily obtainable.

It is to be noted that the tubular members **18** each have a ribbed pressure plate **20** of identical construction and which are provided with a socket **22** so that a set screw threadedly carried by the socket **22** can abut the end of the particular member **18** that the pressure plate **20** is to be affixed to. A resilient pad **26** of compressible material, such as foam rubber or polyurethane, is suitably cemented to each pressure plate **20**. It is highly important that some compressible material be attached to the pressure plates **20** so that the easel **10** can be more firmly held between the floor **12** and the ceiling **14**.

Although in an inverted relationship with respect to each other, the easel **10** further comprises a pair of identical clamping sleeves **28**. These sleeves are formed with a bore portion **30** of somewhat larger cross-section than that of the first or central tubular member **16**. A cavity or recess **32** is formed at one side of the bore portion **30** and is of a size so as to accommodate at least a portion of a pressure plate or disc **34**. Through the agency of a threaded set screw **36** having a screwdriver slot **38** it will be appreciated that the plate or disc **34** will be forced against the first or central tubular member **16** so as to retain the clamping sleeve **28** in a fixed relationship therewith. This action with respect to the uper clamping sleeve **28** can be easily discerned from FIGURE 2; of course, the same action occurs with respect to the lower sleeve **28**.

The sleeves **28** also include smaller cross-sectional bore portions **40** which are of a size to accommodate the additional tubular members **18** forming respective shoulders at **41** in each instance. As with the bore portions **30** of the sleeves, the bore portions **40** also contain a cavity or recess, the cavity or recess in this instance bearing the reference numeral **42**. A pressure plate or disc **44** similar to the previously-mentioned plates or discs **34** is employed in conjunction with each sleeve and a set screw **46** having a knurled head **48** thereon is utilized for forcing each plate or disc **44** against the tubular member **18** in a manner similar to that in which the plate or disc **34** is forced against the tubular member **16**.

At this time, attention is called to a pair of brackets **50**, which can also be identical, each having a sleeve **52** with a bore **54** extending therethrough of a size so as to accommodate the tubular member **16**. Here again, a cavity or recess **56** is formed in each of the sleves **52** for at least the partial reception of a pressure plate or disc **58**. A set screw **60** having a knurled head **62** thereon permits the plate **58** to be forced against the tubular member **16**, just as is the situation with respect to the members **34** and **44** that have already been mentioned.

Describing further the brackets **50**, it is to be observed that each bracket has what will be termed an L-shaped member **64** appropriately secured thereto, as by welding or soldering. Although any suitable material might be utilized, a wooden jaw element **66** has been shown attached to the L-shaped member **64** in each instance by means of screws **68** (see FIGURE 2). Each of the jaw elements **66** is formed with a rather shallow notch **70** forming a sloping clamping surface. The deepest portion of the notches **70** have imbedded therein suitable teeth or prongs **72** for holding the canvas or drawing paper constituting the picture being worked upon. This picture has been shown in phantom outline and has been assigned the reference numeral **74**.

Having presented the foregoing information, the use of my easel **10** should be readily understood. Initially, the ribbed pressure plates **20** are attached to the remote ends of the pair of tubular members **18**, this being by means of the set screws **24**. Before inserting the other ends of the tubular members **18** into the first or central tubular member **16**, the person assembling the easel **10**

would first clamp the two clamping sleeves 28 to the opposite ends of the tubular member 16, using the pressure plates or discs 34 and the set screws 36. It is then that said opposite ends of the tubular members 18 should be inserted into the opposite ends of the first or central tubular member 16, the ends of the members 18 passing through the smaller bore portions 40 of the clamping sleeves 28.

Having done this, either of the tubular members 18 can be clamped with the proper length thereof extending from the lower and upper ends of the first or central tubular member 16. Stated somewhat differently, the amount that the tubular members 18 project will be to whatever degree is necessary to assure that the resilent pads 26 will be pressed tightly against the floor 12 and the ceiling 14. It is not necessary to equalize the amount that either tubular member 18 projects, for all that is necessary is that the over-all length of the easel be such that pressure will be exerted against the floor 12 and the ceiling 14 in order to firmly retain the easel 10 in a vertical position.

With the easel 10 disposed between the floor 12 and the ceiling 14, the next step to be performed is adjusting the brackets 50 at the proper working height for the artist and also with the proper amount of spacing for the height of the particular picture 74 that is to be clamped between the jaw elements 66. This is easily accomplished through the agency of the set screws 60, sufficient tightening of these set screws causing the pressure plates or discs 58 to bear against the first or central tubular member 16 so as to assure retention of the picture 74 at the desired elevation.

It should be recognized from the foregoing description and also FIGURE 2 of the drawing that the invention does not require close tolerances or clearances with respect to the various parts that are to be clamped together. To empasize this, which is important from a manufacturing standpoint, considerable clearance has been shown between the first or central tubular member 16 and the sides of the bore portion 30 of the upper clamping sleeve 28, the same relationship existing with respect to the lower sleeve 28. Similarly, it will be discerned that an appreciable amount of clearance can exist between the tubular members 18 and the respective bore portions 40 of the clamping sleeves 28. Likewise, the sleeve 52 of each bracket 50 may have its bore 54 appreciably larger than the outer dimensions of the first or central tubular member 16. In each of these situations, the clamping action that has been afforded is such that close clearances or tolerances need not be provided in order to achieve a firm clamping action.

Assuming that the easel 10 is to be taken down and placed in storage, it is only necessary that either the upper or lower set screw 46 be loosened, the particular knurled head 48 easily permitting this. With either of the set screws 46 loosened sufficiently, the particular tubular member 18 that has been clamped in place by virtue of the clamping action afforded by the particular set screw will then be free to be moved farther into the first or central tubular member 16. Such movement, which can be only a small amount of movement, relaxes the pressure being applied by the pads 26 and the easel 10 can then be easily stored.

If complete disassembly is needed, such as when a person is desirous of transporting the easel from his home to an art class, then the tubular members 18 can be completely telescoped within the confines of the tubular member 16. If a further "kocking down" is necessary, the parts can all be removed and then reassembled when the artist's destination is reached. Thus, considerable choice is provided the user of the easel 10.

From a manufacturing standpoint, it is important to appreciate that the following parts are duplicated when employing the teachings of the invention: 18, 20, 28 and 50.

It will, of course, be understood that various changes

may be made in the form, details, arrangements and proportions of the parts without departing from the scope of my invention as set forth in the appended claims.

What is claimed:

1. An artist's easel comprising:
   (a) a first elongated member;
   (b) second and third elongated members telescopically adjustable with respect to the opposite ends of said first member;
   (c) a pad member affixed to each of the remote ends of said second and third elongated members for engaging the floor and ceiling of a room when said second and third members are properly adjusted;
   (d) a pair of picture retaining brackets carried by said first elongated member; and
   (e) means for adjusting at least one of said brackets relative to the other for the accommodation of different size pictures.

2. An artist's easel in accordance with claim 1 including:
   (a) a layer of resilient material secured to each of said pad members.

3. An artist's easel in accordance with claim 1 in which:
   (a) said first elongated member is of tubular configuration and said second and third elongated members are telescopically received in the opposite ends thereof.

4. An artist's easel in accordance with claim 3 in which each bracket includes:
   (a) a sleeve member slidably surrounding said first elongated member, and
   (b) a set screw associated with each sleeve for clamping its respective bracket at a desired height.

5. An artist's easel in accordance with claim 4 in which:
   (a) the upper bracket includes a tray having an upwardly sloping portion;
   (b) the lower bracket includes a tray having a downwardly sloping portion;
   (c) a plurality of downwardly projecting elements on said upper tray; and
   (d) a plurality of upwardly projecting elements on said lower tray,
   (e) whereby the picture is securely retained by said trays and projecting elements.

6. An artist's easel comprising:
   (a) a first tubular member having a rectangular cross-section;
   (b) second and third tubular members telescopically received in the opposite ends of said first member, said second and third members also having a rectangular cross-section but of reduced dimensions;
   (c) a pad affixed to the projecting ends of each of said second and third tubular members;
   (d) compressible foam material on each pad for contacting the floor and ceiling of a room;
   (e) a pair of clamping sleeves having bore portions at one end of a size to accommodate the end portions of said first member and bore portions at the other end of a size to accommodate the end portions, respectively, of said second and third members and there being a shoulder between said bore portions in each instance;
   (f) a first set screw threadedly carried by the one end portion of each sleeve for clamping said sleeves to said first member;
   (g) a second set screw threadedly carried by the other portion of each sleeve for clamping said second and third members in an adjusted relation with said first member;
   (h) a second pair of clamping sleeves of a size to embrace said first member;
   (i) a set screw threadedly carried by each of said second pair of sleeves for clamping said second sleeves

to selected intermediate portions of said first member; and

(j) a picture engaging tray affixed to each of said second pair of sleeves for retaining said picture therebetween when said second pair of sleeves have been properly positioned on said first member.

7. An artist's easel in accordance with claim 6 in which:

(a) each second sleeve is provided with an internal recess with which the inner ends of the set screws carried by said second sleeves cooperate, and

(b) a plate element contained in each of said recesses,

(c) whereby said inner ends of the set screws will bear against one face of said plate elements to force the other face thereof against said respective members.

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