

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

G. R. ALDEN.
PORTABLE BOOK RACK.

No. 593,758.

Patented Nov. 16, 1897.

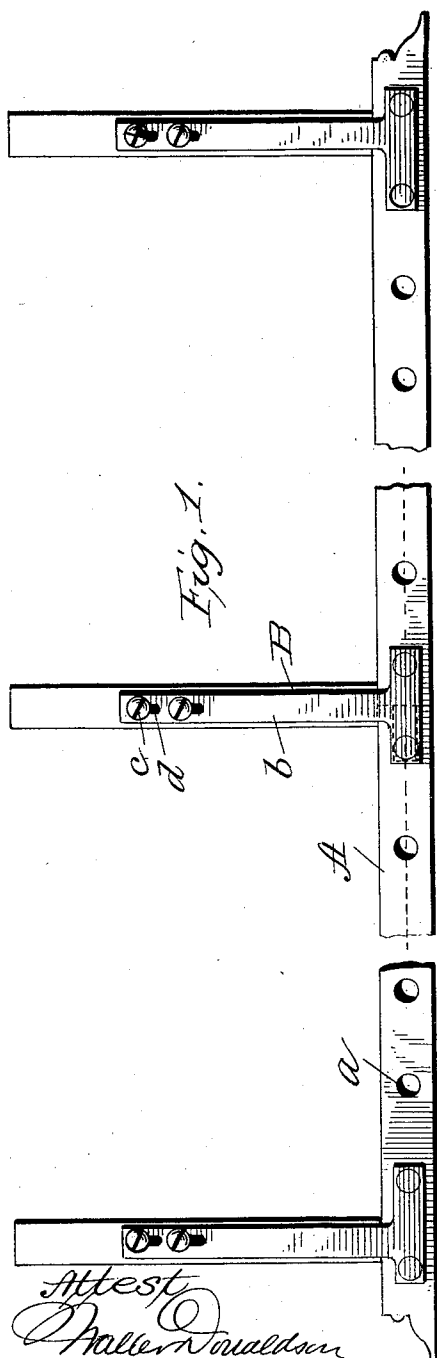
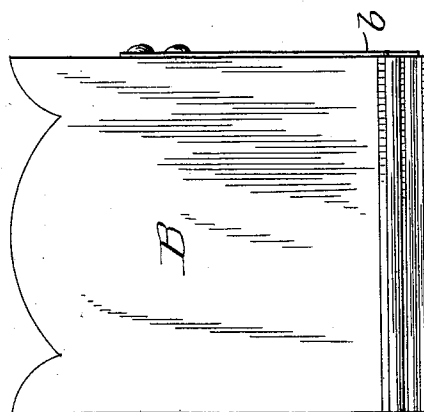
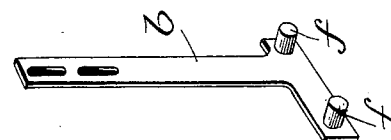
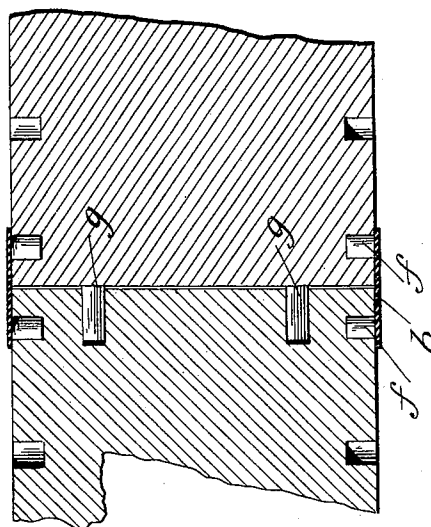


Fig. 1.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 2.



Attest
H. L. McDonald
F. L. McDonald

Inventor
Gustavus R. Alden
by E. W. Spear ATTOR.

(No Model.)

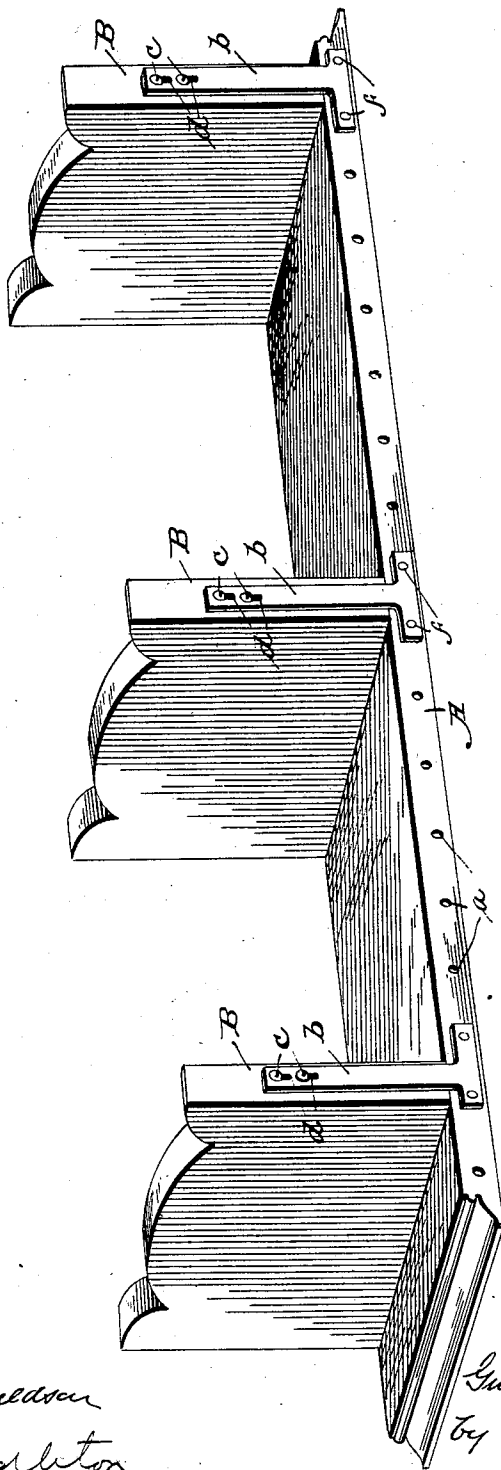
2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Fig. 5.



Attest
Halter & Walden
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Inventor
Gustavus R. Alden
by Geo. Spear
Att'y.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GUSTAVUS R. ALDEN, OF CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS.

PORTABLE BOOK-RACK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 593,758, dated November 16, 1897.

Application filed March 19, 1897. Serial No. 628,326. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GUSTAVUS R. ALDEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cambridge, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Portable Book-Racks, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

My invention is designed to provide an improved form of portable shelf adapted as a support for books and the like, and I have aimed to make it of simple construction, so as to be economical to make and at the same time perfectly well adapted for spaces of different lengths and including as one of its novel features vertical partitions or supports adapted to be used at the ends of the shelf or in any intermediate position to support the books carried by the shelf.

In carrying out my invention I provide a suitable base-plate and adjustably supported thereon end and intermediate partitions extending vertically from the base-plate and supported thereon adjustably, so as to render it possible to move the partitions into any position within the limit of the length of the base-plate, and its adjustment is secured in the simplest manner, so as to render it possible for any one, even a child, to make the adjustment.

In the accompanying drawings I have shown in Figure 1 a front elevation of the shelf embodying my improvement. In Fig. 2 is shown an end view of the shelf. Fig. 3 shows the detail. Fig. 4 is a sectional view on line 4 4, Fig. 1, of a part of the base-plate. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the shelf.

In the figures the base-plate is shown at A, and this may be made of a proper length of a single piece, or it may be spliced, as hereinafter described. The ends are preferably ornamented in a suitable manner, and on each edge I make a series of holes *a*, preferably central of the thickness of the board. I may strip the edges where the holes are with metal, and this will serve to protect the edges against undue wear. The vertical partitions which I use to divide the base-plate into sections I show at B, and these are made of a width equal to the base-plate and rest directly upon the surface of the base-plate. Adjustably se-

cured to each outer edge of the partitions B are spring-plates *b*, secured to the edges of the partitions by screws *c*, passing through elongated openings *d* in the spring-plates. These plates extend down below the bottom of the partitions and terminate in an extension running at right angles to the plate, forming a T. The horizontal portion of the arm is provided with two projections or studs on its inner face, as shown at *f*, and these studs are adapted to register with the holes in the edges of the base-plate. It will be seen that the base-plates by reason of the elongated slots therein may be adjusted easily to bring the projections *f* properly in line with the openings in the edge of the base-plate, and as the spring-plates are secured at their upper ends to the vertical partitions the lower ends may be easily sprung out either to engage or disengage the projections with the openings, and thus the vertical partitions may be readily attached or detached. I provide a spring-plate preferably on each edge of the vertical partition, but it will be seen that the plates on one edge may, if desired, be rigid and the plates on the other edge only be made of spring material. It will be seen that these vertical partitions may be used in any number and may be utilized in connection with shelves where it is desired to support the books at intervals or where only a few books are used and the rest of the shelf remains vacant. The partitions are very readily applied and require no skill to attach or detach them or to adjust them.

Where it is desired to make the base-board of two pieces, my invention provides for a very secure connection at the joint. In such case I make holes in the end of one part of the base-plate and provide dowel-pins *g* in the other end, which engage these openings, and then directly above the joint I place a vertical partition, with the spring-plates extending down therefrom, the projections therein engaging each a hole in the adjacent end of the two parts of the base-plate, and thus the connection is made very secure against undue strain.

I do not limit myself as to the manner of making the spring-plates, as these may be made in any suitable way best suited to accomplish the end in view.

What I claim is—

1. In combination, the base-plate having a series of openings in each side edge thereof, a transverse partition adapted to rest upon the
5 base-plate, and a movable plate under spring tension secured to each end of said partition having a T-shaped lower end and projections on said end spaced a distance apart adapted to engage the openings and support the par-
10 tition, substantially as described.

2. In combination, a base-plate made in parts connected together by dowels and openings and a partition above the point of con-

nection, plates carried by said partitions and crossing the line of junction on each edge of 15 the base-plate and projections from said plates engaging openings in the adjacent ends of the joined base-plate, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature 20 in presence of two witnesses.

GUSTAVUS R. ALDEN.

Witnesses:

ALFRED R. YARDLEY,
JOSEPH A. NOBLE.