Sept. 14, 1948. A. T. LONG 2,449,492

LECTERN

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Fig. 1.

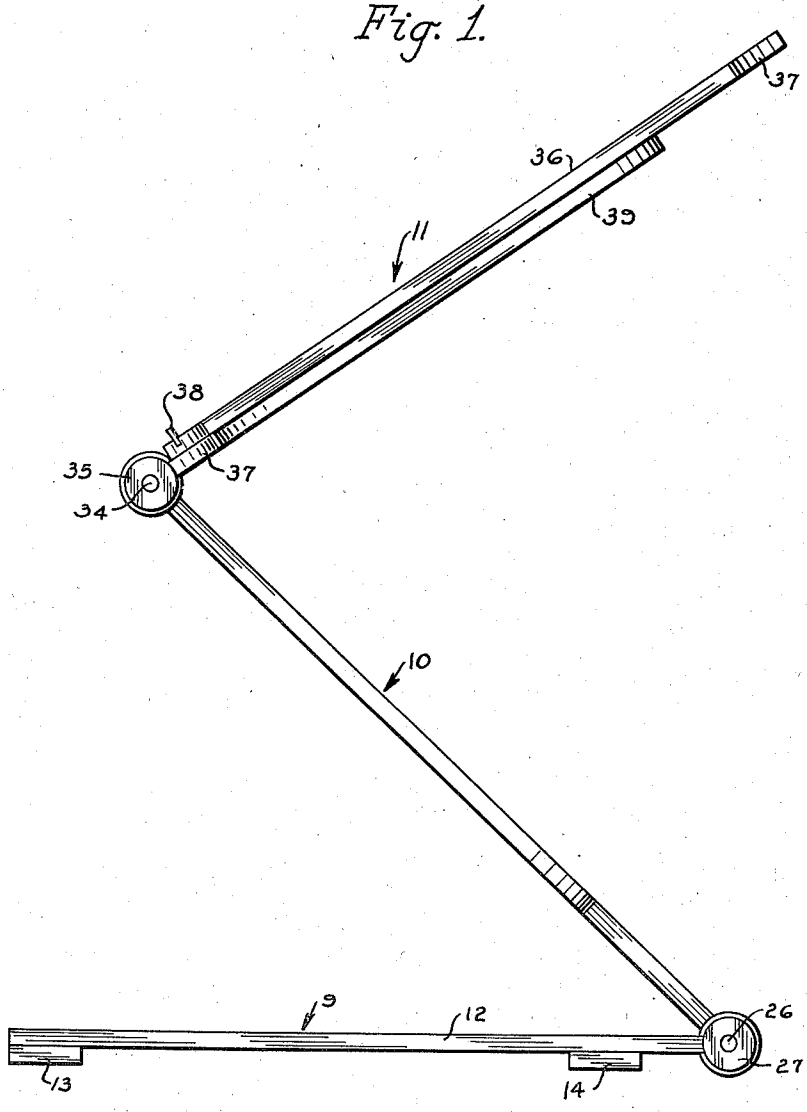
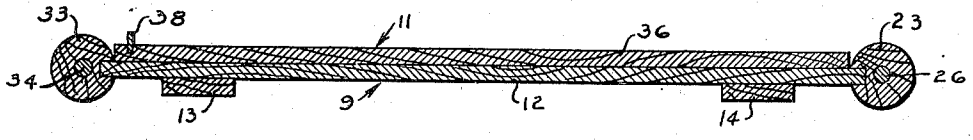


Fig. 2.



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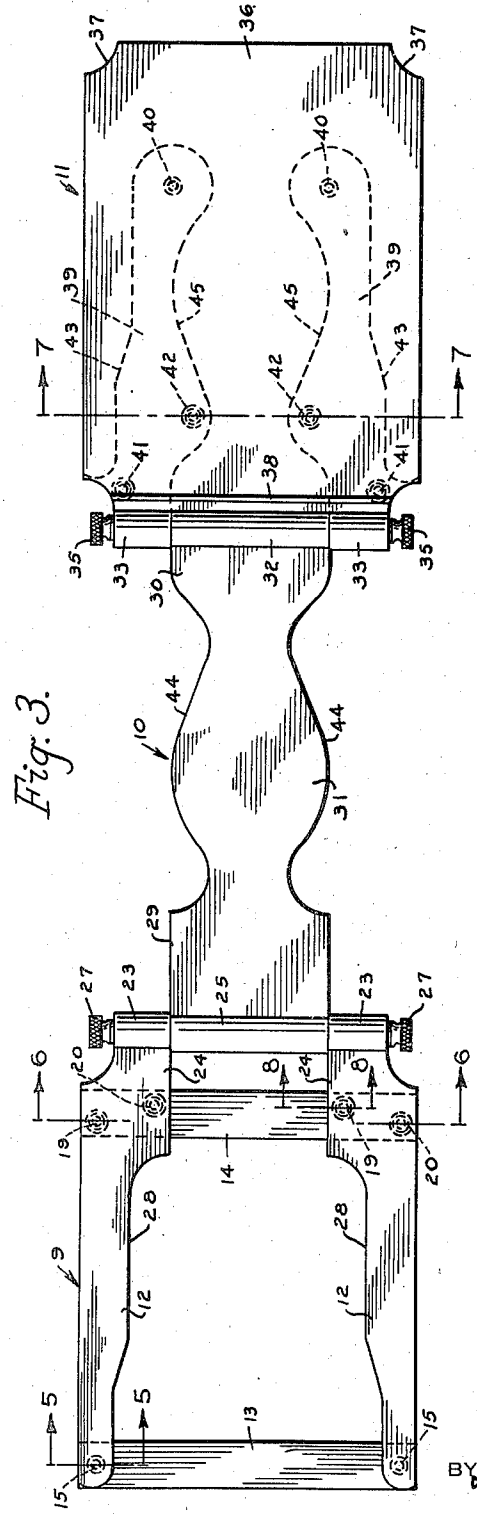


Fig. 3.

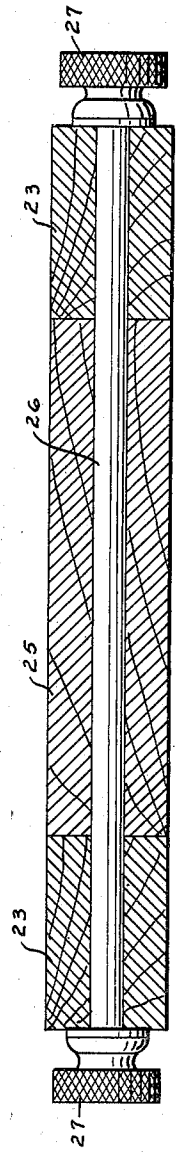


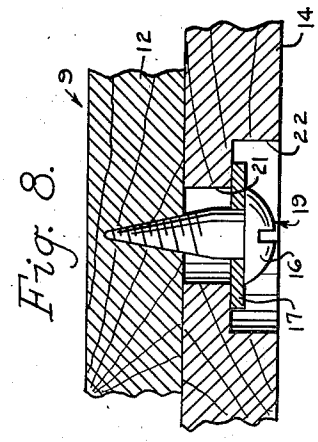
Fig. 4.

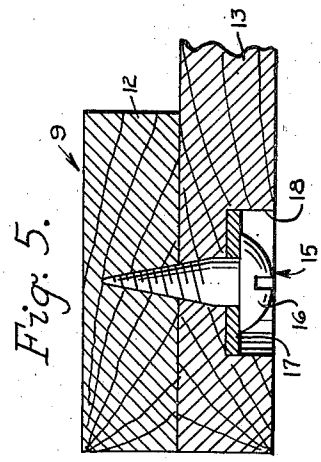
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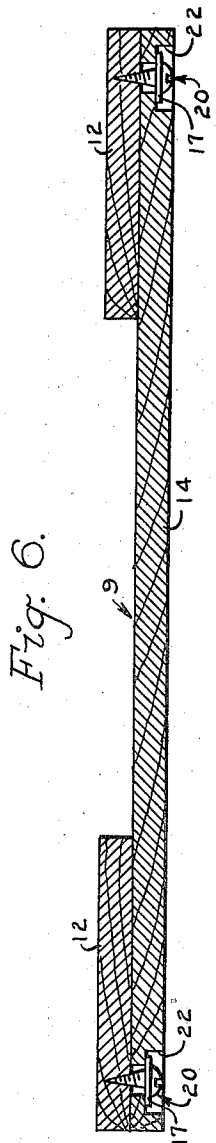
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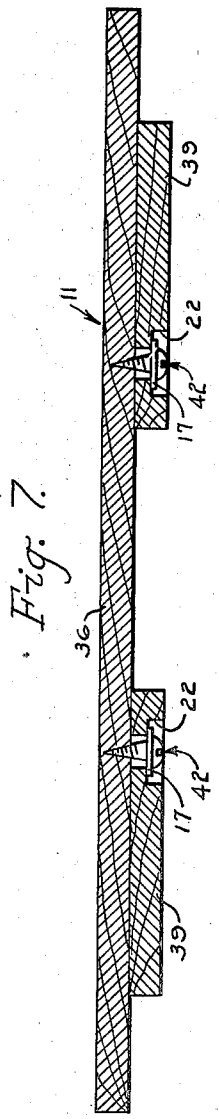
LECTERN

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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LECTERN

Albert T. Long, Baltimore, Md.

Application July 24, 1947, Serial No. 763,181

6 Claims. (Cl. 45—80)

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This invention relates to improvements in lecterns or supports for holding manuscripts, books, and the like in positions wherein they may be more readily and conveniently read by speakers, singers, typists, and others, the primary object being to provide a serviceable and attractive device of the type indicated of collapsible construction, which when not in use can be collapsed to a form of minimum thickness and bulk with a view to ease of transportation and storage.

Another important object of this invention is to provide a device of the character indicated above composed of three sections consisting of a base member, an intermediate or bracket member, and a manuscript supporting member, these members being in the form of flat plates of any suitable material, including wood, with the intermediate plate hinged at its opposite ends to the base plate and manuscript supporting plate in such a way that the manuscript supporting plate can be adjusted with respect to the base plate both vertically and angularly with respect to the intermediate plate, so as to enable giving the manuscript plate any desired elevation and angulation with respect to the base plate, within the limits imposed by the dimensions of the plates.

Another important object of this invention is to provide a device of the character indicated above in which the base plate is cut away or recessed to nest the said intermediate plate and parts of the said manuscript supporting plate, so that the last mentioned plate can rest coextensively upon the upper surface of the base plate in the collapsed condition of the device, whereby the device has then the thickness or height of only the base and manuscript supporting plates.

Another important object of this invention is the provision in a device of the character indicated above of means for hinging the plates together which comprises hinge pins axially slidable through pin barrels with tightening thumb nuts on their opposite ends, the nuts being arranged to be turned to abut the ends of the pin barrels to clamp the plates or sections in adjusted positions or to be backed off to release the plates for adjustment relative to each other, including collapsing thereof to the folded position.

Another important object of the invention is the provision of a device of the character indicated above, in which single hinge pin barrels are provided on some of the plates with pairs of spaced pin barrels on others of the plates, with the single pin barrels positioned between paired pin barrels, whereby clamping of the thumb nuts

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frictionally engages the inner ends of the paired pin barrels against the opposite ends of the single pin barrels so as to hold the plates in selected adjusted relation, the said paired pin barrels being carried by portions so mounted on the related plates that the paired pin barrels can be adjusted axially in order to compensate for wear occurring on the meeting ends of the single pin barrels and the paired pin barrels which may develop from frequent use and adjustment of the device, thereby eliminating looseness in the device and the necessity for repairs or replacements of parts to compensate for wear during the life of the device.

Other important objects and advantageous features of this invention will be apparent from the following description and accompanying drawings, wherein, merely for purposes of disclosure herein, a presently preferred embodiment of the invention is set forth in detail.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a right hand side elevation, showing said embodiment adjusted to a reading position.

Figure 2 is a longitudinal section showing the device in collapsed or nested position.

Figure 3 is a schematic plan view showing the three sections or members extending in substantially the same plane with underlying portions thereof shown in dotted lines.

Figure 4 is a transverse section on an enlarged scale taken through one of the hinge joints.

Figure 5 is a fragmentary section, on a further enlarged scale, taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 3.

Figures 6 and 7 are transverse sections, on substantially the same scale as Figure 4, taken on the lines 6—6 and 7—7, respectively, of Figure 3, and

Figure 8 is a fragmentary section, on substantially the same scale as Figure 5, taken on the line 8—8 of Figure 3.

Referring in detail to the drawings, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, the numerals 9, 10, and 11 severally and generally designate the base plate, the intermediate plate, and the manuscript supporting plate of which the device is composed. The base plate 9 intended to rest flat upon any suitable supporting surface, such as a speaker's rostrum, typewriter or other table, desk, or the like, may be made of any suitable material, such as wood, and consists of two similar longitudinal side members 12, 12 and of a rear transverse member 13 and a

front transverse member 14 which underlie the side members.

The rear ends of the side members 12 are pivoted upon the ends of the rear transverse member 13 by means of screws 15, as shown in Figure 5, which traverse the cross member 13 upwardly and thread into the side members 12, with the heads 16 of the screws engaging a washer 17 fitting the screw shank and fitting a counterbore 18 formed in the underside of the cross member, whereby the rear ends of the base side members can pivot on the screws 15, when sufficiently loosened, but have no lateral adjustability relative to the rear transverse member 13.

The opposite end portions of the forward cross member 14 are connected to forward end portions of the base side members 12 by pairs of biasing screws 19 and 20, which like the screws 15, are threaded upwardly into the side members 12 and pass through fitting washers 17. However, in order to provide for lateral adjustment of the forward ends of the base side members 12, 12 toward and away from each other, the screws 19, 20 being sufficiently loosened, the shanks of the screws 19, 20 traverse the forward cross member 14 though relatively large diameter bores 21, and the screw heads 16 and washers 17 are seated in relatively large diameter counterbores 22. By means of these arrangements the paired hinge pin barrels 23 on the laterally reduced forward ends 24 of the side members can be adjusted to take up any wear occurring on their facing ends due to working contact with the opposite ends of the single pin barrel 25 on the lower or forward end of the intermediate section or bracket plate 10. The pin barrels 23, 23 and 25 are axially and slidably traversed by the hinge pin 26, on whose opposite ends thumb nuts 27, 27 are threaded, which are adapted to be tightened to hold the parts in selected position and loosened to permit their adjustment relative to each other.

The laterally inward edges 28 of the base side members 12 are similarly cut away or contoured to nest flush therebetween portions, hereinafter described, of the intermediate plate 10 and manuscript supporting plate 11.

The intermediate or bracket plate 10 consists of a flat body, which may be of the same or a different material from the base plate 9, and having portions 29, 30 at its ends of a width the same as or not substantially greater than the span between the pin barrels 23, 23, with the portion 31 intermediate the portions 29 and 30 contoured or cut away in a manner hereinafter described. The rearward or upper end portion 30 has a single hinge pin barrel 32 similar to the hinge barrel 25 on the other end of the plate 10, which is positioned between paired hinge barrels 33, 33 on the lower or rearward end of the manuscript supporting plate 11. A hinge pin 34, similar to the hinge pin 26 axially and slidably traverses the hinge pin barrels 32 and 33, 33 and has thumb nuts 35, 35 threaded on the ends thereof.

The manuscript supporting section or plate 11 consists of a flat rectangular plate or body 36, which may be rounded or cut away at the corners at 37, for convenience or decoration, and be provided near its lower end with a forwardly projecting ledge or rib 38 to act as a rest for the lower edge of a manuscript or the like laid upon the plate 36. The paired hinge pin barrels 33 are connected to the plate 36 by longitudinally elongated laterally spaced pieces 39, 39

which underlie the plate 36 and have their forward ends fixedly pivoted to forward portions of the plate 36 by screws 40, 40 in an arrangement similar to that of the screws 15. Those portions of the rear ends of the pieces 39, 39 which underlie the plate 36 are secured thereto by paired screws 41, 42 which are arranged on a bias, like and in an arrangement similar to that of the paired screws 19, 20 of the base plate 9, and for the same purpose of permitting the pin barrels 33 to be adjusted toward each other to take up any wear developing between the ends of the intermediate or single pin barrel 32 and the paired pin barrels 33.

In order that the pieces 39, 39 may nest within the side members 12 of the base plate 9, the outer edges 43 of the pieces 39 are contoured similarly to the inner edges 28 of those side members 12. In order that the intermediate bracket plate 10 may nest flush with the side members 12, and between and flush with the pieces 39, 39, the outer edges 44 of the intermediate plate 10 and the inner edges 45 of the pieces 39, 39 are conformably contoured, as shown in Figure 3, wherein the various cooperative contours described above are illustrated as preferably but not necessarily of curved or rounded forms. While not necessary in all instances of embodiment of this invention, it is desirable that the base side members 12, the intermediate section 10, and the pieces 39 be of the same thickness, and that the thickness of the plate 36 be such that when the device is collapsed, it will be no thicker than the hinge pin barrels at the opposite ends thereof.

It will be understood from the foregoing that the present invention provides a lectern or the like of eminently practical and attractive form and construction, which, barring breakage due to unusual mishandling or accident, will last several lifetimes, with no expense for upkeep or replacement of parts subject to wear in normal use.

I claim:

1. In a collapsible lectern, a base section provided with a receiving opening between its sides, a normally inclined intermediate section hinged at its lower end to said base section within the forward end of said receiving opening, a normally inclined manuscript supporting section comprising a manuscript supporting plate, a pair of laterally spaced longitudinal pieces and means securing said pieces to the underside of said plate, said pieces being spaced to nest said intermediate section therebetween when said manuscript supporting section is collapsed flush with said intermediate section, said pieces and said intermediate section together being of a width to nest in said receiving opening of the base, with said manuscript supporting plate flush with the said base when said manuscript and intermediate sections are swung into parallelism with said base section, and means hinging said pieces to the upper end of said intermediate section.

2. In a collapsible lectern, a base section provided with a receiving opening between its sides, a normally inclined intermediate section hinged at its lower end to said base section within the forward end of said receiving opening, a normally inclined manuscript supporting section comprising a manuscript supporting plate, a pair of laterally spaced longitudinal pieces and means securing said pieces to the underside of said plate, said pieces being spaced to nest said intermediate section therebetween when said manuscript support-

ing section is collapsed flush with said intermediate section, said pieces and said intermediate section together being of a width to nest in said receiving opening of the base, with said manuscript supporting plate flush with the said base when said manuscript and intermediate sections are swung into parallelism with said base section, and means hinging said pieces to the upper end of said intermediate section, said base section comprising a pair of laterally spaced side members, a rear cross member underlying the rear ends of said side members' means pivoting the opposite ends of said rear cross member to the side members, a front cross member underlying the forward ends of said side members, pin and slot means securing the opposite ends of said front cross member to said side members.

3. In a collapsible lectern, a base section provided with a receiving opening between its sides, a normally inclined intermediate section hinged at its lower end to said base section within the forward end of said receiving opening, a normally inclined manuscript supporting section comprising a manuscript supporting plate, a pair of laterally spaced longitudinal pieces and means securing said pieces to the underside of said plate, said pieces being spaced to nest said intermediate section therebetween when said manuscript supporting section is collapsed flush with said intermediate section, said pieces and said intermediate section together being of a width to nest in said receiving opening of the base, with said manuscript supporting plate flush with the said base when said manuscript and intermediate sections are swung into parallelism with said base section, and means hinging said pieces to the upper end of said intermediate section, said base section comprising a pair of laterally spaced side members, a rear cross member underlying the rear ends of said side members means pivoting the opposite ends of said rear cross member to the side members, a front cross member underlying the forward ends of said side members, pin and slot means securing the opposite ends of said front cross member to said side members and hinge means hinging the lower end of said intermediate section to the base section comprising paired hinge pin barrels on the forward ends of said base section side members, a single hinge pin barrel on the lower end of said intermediate section positioned between said paired hinge pin barrels, a hinge pin axially slidably traversing said single barrel and said paired barrels, and nuts threaded on the ends of said hinge pin for clamping the hinge pin barrels so as to hold said intermediate section in adjusted relation to said base section, said pin and slot means permitting lateral adjustment of said paired hinge pin barrels through swinging of said base side members on the axis of said pivot means whereby the inner ends of said paired hinge pin barrel can be brought into engagement with the opposite ends of said single hinge pin barrel to compensate for wear on such ends preliminary to tightening said finger nuts for clamping the intermediate and base sections in a selected adjusted relationship.

4. In a collapsible lectern, a base section provided with a receiving opening between its sides, a normally inclined intermediate section hinged at its lower end to said base section within the forward end of said receiving opening, a normally inclined manuscript supporting section comprising a manuscript supporting plate, a pair of laterally spaced longitudinal pieces and means securing said pieces to the underside of said plate,

said pieces being spaced to nest said intermediate section therebetween when said manuscript supporting section is collapsed flush with said intermediate section, said pieces and said intermediate section together being of a width to nest in said receiving opening of the base, with said manuscript supporting plate flush with the said base when said manuscript and intermediate sections are swung into parallelism with said base section, and means hinging said pieces to the upper end of said intermediate section, said securing means comprising fixed pivot means securing the upper ends of said pieces to an upper part of said plate, and pin and slot means securing the lower portions of said pieces to the lower part of said plate and said hinge means comprising laterally spaced and paired hinge pin barrels on the lower ends of said pieces below said plate, a single hinge pin barrel on the upper end of said intermediate section positioned between said paired hinge pin barrels, a hinge pin axially slidably traversing said barrels and having clamping nuts threaded on its opposite ends, said pin and slot means permitting lateral adjustment of the lower ends of said pieces on the axis of said pivot means so as in the event of wear thereon the inner ends of said paired barrels can be adjusted into contact with the opposite ends of said intermediate barrel, preliminary to tightening said clamping nuts to clamp said barrels together to hold the intermediate and manuscript supporting sections in a selected relationship.

5. In a collapsible lectern, a base section provided with a receiving opening between its sides, a normally inclined intermediate section hinged at its lower end to said base section within the forward end of said receiving opening, a normally inclined manuscript supporting section comprising a manuscript supporting plate, a pair of laterally spaced longitudinal pieces and means securing said pieces to the underside of said plate, said pieces being spaced to nest said intermediate section therebetween when said manuscript supporting section is collapsed flush with said intermediate section, said pieces and said intermediate section together being of a width to nest in said receiving opening of the base, with said manuscript supporting plate flush with the said base when said manuscript and intermediate sections are swung into parallelism with said base section, and means hinging said pieces to the upper end of said intermediate section, said hinge means being of substantial diameter, said base section, said intermediate section, and said manuscript supporting section being relatively proportioned in thickness so as not to together substantially exceed the thickness of said hinge means.

6. A collapsible lectern or the like comprising a base section for resting upon a generally horizontal support, said base section comprising laterally spaced side members having curvedly contoured laterally inward edges providing a receiving opening therebetween, an intermediate section normally extending upwardly at an angle from and hinged by its lower end to one end of said base section, a normally inclined manuscript supporting section comprising a flat body upon which the manuscript or the like can rest and laterally spaced longitudinal members secured to the underside of and projecting beyond the lower end of said flat body, the laterally inward edges of said longitudinal members of said manuscript supporting section being curvedly contoured to nest said intermediate section there-

between, and said longitudinal members and said intermediate section being curvedly contoured to nest in said receiving opening in said base section with the said flat body of the manuscript supporting section resting upon the top of said side members of the base section when said lectern is collapsed, and means hinging said flat body to said intermediate section.

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