

July 8, 1941.

D. G. ANDERSON

2,248,049

DESK CONSTRUCTION

Filed Oct. 3, 1939

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

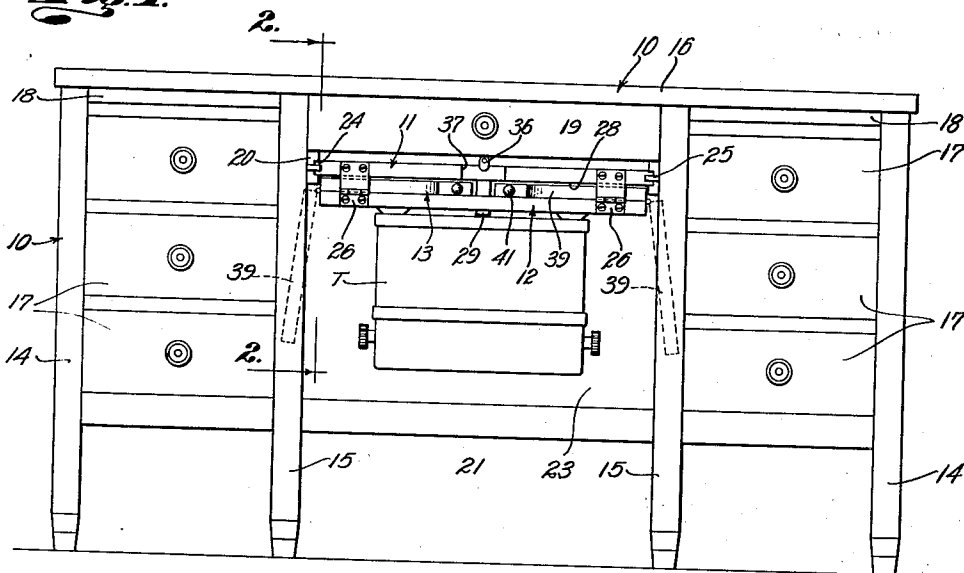


Fig. 2.

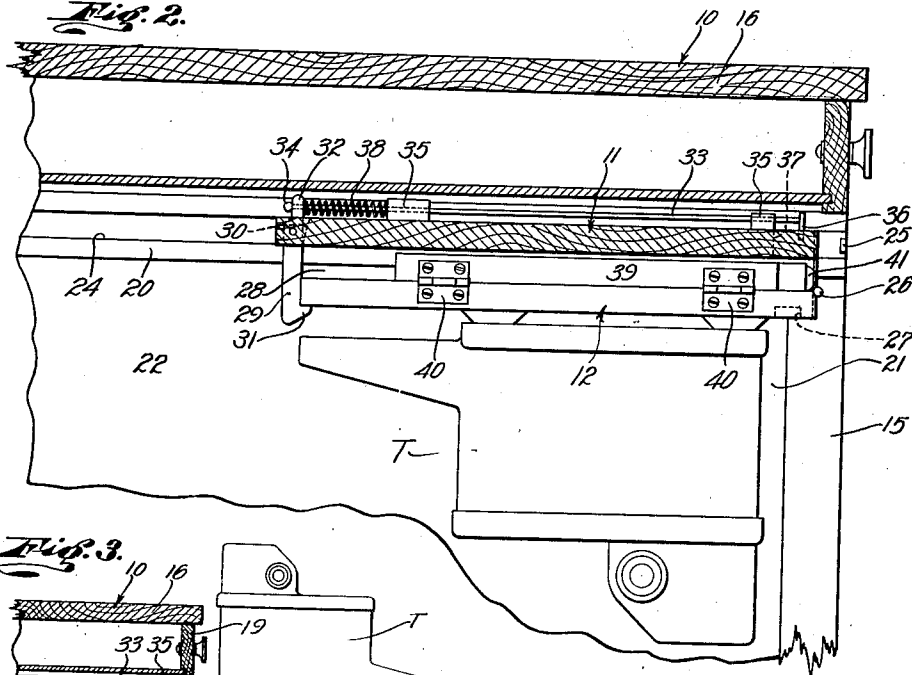
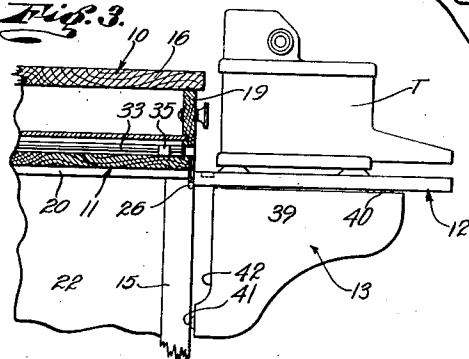


Fig. 3.



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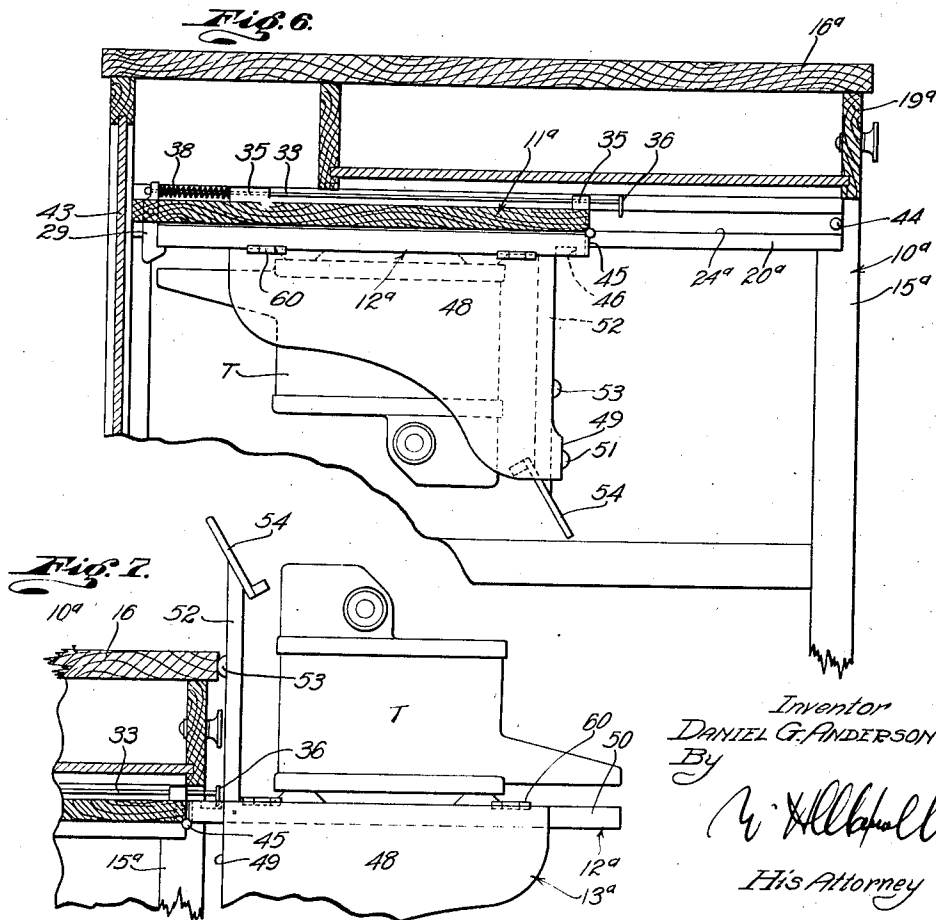
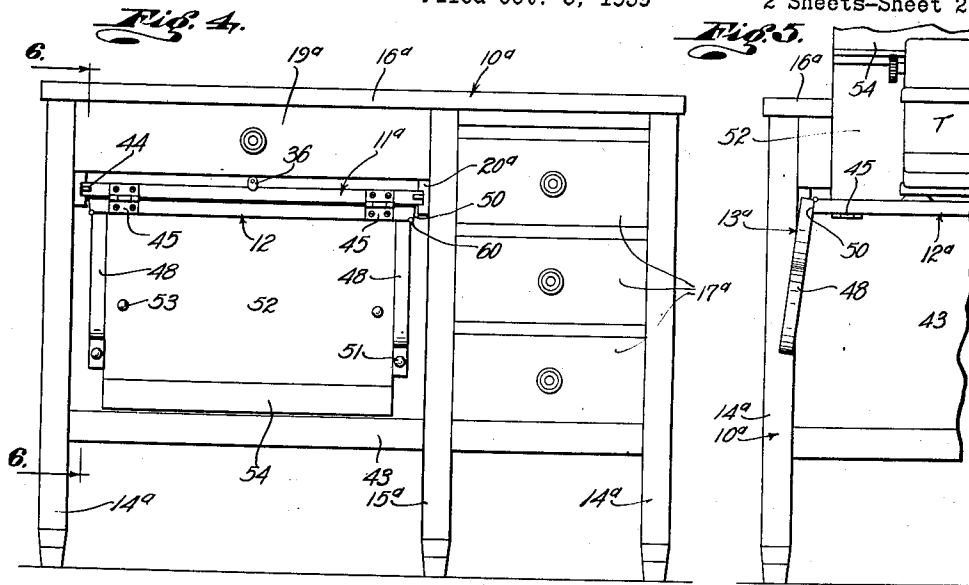
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DESK CONSTRUCTION

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2 Sheets-Sheet 2



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,248,049

DESK CONSTRUCTION

Daniel G. Anderson, Los Angeles, Calif.

Application October 3, 1939, Serial No. 297,686

8 Claims. (Cl. 312—30)

This invention relates to desk constructions and relates more particularly to tables, desks, etc. embodying means for mounting and handling typewriters, adding machines, and like devices. A general object of this invention is to provide a simple, practical and particularly effective desk construction of the character mentioned.

Another object of this invention is to provide a table, desk, or the like, incorporating novel means for supporting a typewriter or other device for movement between a retracted, inactive position and a projected, active position where it is conveniently accessible for use.

Another and important object of the invention is to provide a table or desk construction of the character mentioned that may be of conventional or selected design and construction as regards the several drawers, drawer capacity, the desk top, etc. to have the appearance of a standard or typical desk and to be fully useful as such, and yet embodies means for carrying a typewriter, or the like, for movement between a retracted, fully concealed position, and a projected, readily available position. The typical, so-called typewriter desks used in offices, etc. either embody a portion of the desk top that carries the typewriter and that swings between a position where the typewriter is below the top and a position where the typewriter lies in the plane of the top, or embodies a typewriter carrier concealed by a false drawer front and swingable between a position under the desk and a position where the typewriter is exposed and available for use. These prior constructions materially reduce the number of drawers and the usable drawer space, and in the case of the first mentioned type of prior device, the usable area of the desk top is drastically reduced when the typewriter is in the exposed active position, and a main top drawer or center drawer cannot be included in the desk. Further, the false drawer fronts, the sectional desk tops, and other arrangements of the typical typewriter desks now in use greatly detract from the appearance of the desks. The means of the present invention for supporting a typewriter, or the like, may be applied to or embodied in a conventional desk or in a desk of selected construction without reducing the number of drawers, without interfering with the free use of all of the drawers, without requiring a swingable section in the desk top, without resorting to the use of false drawer fronts, and without in any way marring or altering the appearance of the desk. The typewriter mounting means of the present invention is adapted to be applied

to previously constructed desks, tables, etc. of practically any type and construction without in any way altering the drawers or the drawer arrangement and without interfering with the use of the drawers or the desk top or, if desired, may be built into the tables or desks at the time of their manufacture without requiring special design features and without altering the general construction.

Another object of this invention is to provide a table or desk construction of the character referred to that is easy to operate, that is, the typewriter or other device may be easily moved between its concealed retracted position and its projected active position.

Another object of this invention is to provide a table or desk construction of the character mentioned in which the typewriter or other device is dependably supported and held against excessive vibration when in the active projected position.

Another object of this invention is to provide a table or desk construction of the character mentioned in which the typewriter or other device does not interfere with the free use of the knee space or knee hole under the desk and cannot soil or catch the clothing of the persons using the desk or table when the typewriter or device is in the retracted position.

A further object of this invention is to provide a construction of the character mentioned that is simple and inexpensive and that may be readily embodied in or applied to tables, desks, etc.

The various objects and features of my invention will be fully understood from the following detailed description of typical preferred forms and applications of the invention, throughout which description reference is made to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front view of a desk showing one form of construction of the invention and illustrating the typewriter in the retracted position. Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary vertical detailed sectional view taken as indicated by line 2—2 on Fig. 1, showing the carrier approaching its forward position. Fig. 3 is a reduced fragmentary vertical detailed sectional view showing the typewriter in the projected position for use and illustrating the typewriter, the base and the braces in elevation. Fig. 4 is a front view of a desk embodying another form of the invention, showing the typewriter in the retracted position. Fig. 5 is a fragmentary front view of the construction illustrated in Fig. 4 showing the type-

writer in the projected active position. Fig. 6 is an enlarged fragmentary vertical detailed sectional view taken substantially as indicated by line 6—6 on Fig. 4, illustrating the typewriter in its fully retracted position, and Fig. 7 is an enlarged, fragmentary, vertical detailed sectional view showing the typewriter, the base, and the brace in side elevation.

The present invention may be embodied in or applied to tables, desks, etc. of various types, designs and constructions. In the following detailed description I will describe two typical forms of the invention applied to or embodied in desks of more or less typical general construction. It is to be understood that the invention is not to be construed as limited or restricted to the specific forms or applications about to be described, but is to be taken as including any features or modifications that may fall within the scope of the claims.

The embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, may be said to comprise, generally, a desk 10, a shiftable carrier 11 supported in the desk 10, a base 12 pivotally or hingedly connected with the carrier 11 for movement between a position under the carrier and a position at the forward end of the carrier and adapted to support a typewriter T or the like, means 13 for supporting the base 12 in the projected position and other elements the details of which will be later described.

The more or less typical desk 10 illustrated in Figs. 1, 2 and 3 is of a type used in offices, schools, residences, etc. and comprises outer or corner legs 14, sets of inner legs 15, and a top 16 supported on the legs. Tiers or sets of drawers 17 are disposed between the corner legs 14 and the adjacent inner legs 15 and are supported for movement or operation in the well known manner. Pull boards 18 are slidably supported at the upper ends of the sets of drawers 17. A center drawer 19 is arranged between the pairs or sets of inner legs 15 immediately under the desk top 16. Runners or supports 20 carry the drawer 19 for horizontal movement between its open and closed positions. In accordance with the general practice the center drawer 19 may be rather shallow to leave a substantial space 21 between the pairs of inner legs 15 to receive a chair and the knees of the user. The sides of the space 21 are partially closed by vertical boards or members 22 and the drawer runners or supports 20 are secured to or lie against these members 22. The forward end of the knee space 21 is partially closed by an apron 23 forming a part of the external desk wall (not shown). The details of construction of the top 16, the drawers 17 and 19, etc. do not form a part of this invention and are omitted from the disclosure.

The carrier 11 serves to carry the base 12 and other elements of the typewriter supporting means and in accordance with the invention is shiftable or movably supported below the center desk drawer 19. The carrier 11 may be formed of any suitable material such as wood, and is preferably a flat, generally horizontal member that is square or rectangular in plan view. The carrier 11 is supported for horizontal movement. To simplify the construction and to reduce the cost I prefer to employ the runners or supports of the drawer 19 as supports for the shiftable carrier 11. The runners or supports 20 are provided with longitudinal grooves 24 which receive the opposite edge portions of the carrier 11 to

support the carrier for horizontal movement. Inwardly projecting stops 25 are provided on the supports 20 at the outer end of the grooves 24 and are engageable by the outer edge of the carrier 11 to limit the outward movement of the carrier. It will be noted that the carrier 11 is a simple member inexpensively embodied in the desk.

The base 12 is provided to carry the typewriter T, the adding machine, or other device to be used in the desk. The base 12 may be a simple, flat, rectangular or square member of wood or other suitable material. The base 12 is somewhat shorter and narrower than the carrier 11. In accordance with the invention the base 12 is supported on the carrier 11 for pivotal or swinging movement. Suitable hinges 26 connect an edge of the base 12 with the forward edge of the carrier 11 so that the base may be swung between a substantially horizontal position below the carrier 11 and a substantially horizontal position at the forward edge of the carrier. Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings illustrate the base 12 in the retracted position under the carrier 11 and Fig. 3 shows the base 12 in its projected position at the outer edge of the carrier. The typewriter T is suitably fixed to the face of the base 12 that is directed downwardly when the base is under the carrier 11 so that the typewriter is in the upright position for use when the base is swung outwardly to the position shown in Fig. 3. A suitable grip or finger hold is provided in the base 12 to facilitate the manual shifting or movement of the assembly. In the construction illustrated a notch 27 is provided in the base 12 adjacent its hinged edge to be accessible for use as a grip or finger hold. The hinges 26 securing the base 12 to the carrier 11 have long upper checks so that the base 12 is spaced below the carrier 11 when in the retracted position leaving a horizontal opening or space 28 between the carrier and the base. The base 12 is preferably proportioned to have suitable clearance with the drawer runners or supports 20. When the base 12 is in its retracted position the typewriter T is inverted and under the carrier 11 and the desk is formed and proportioned so that the typewriter has ample clearance with the side members 22 of the knee space 21.

The invention includes a releasable latch means for holding the base 12 in its retracted position under the carrier 11. This means includes a latch 29 pivoted in a notch 30 in the rear edge of the carrier 11. The latch 29 is supported to pivot about a horizontal axis and projects downwardly from the carrier 11. The nose 31 of the latch 29 is adapted to engage under the inner edge of the retracted base 12 so that the latch holds or supports the base in its retracted position. The latch 29 has an upper arm 32 projecting above the carrier 11. A manually operable control rod 33 is associated with the latch arm 32. In the simple construction illustrated the rod 33 passes through an opening in the latch arm 32 and has a head 34 engaging the inner side of the latch arm. The rod 33 passes forwardly or outwardly through spaced bearings or guides 35 secured to the upper side of the carrier 11. A suitable operating handle or knob 36 is provided on the forward end of the operating rod 33 and is positioned to be engageable at the forward edge of the carrier 11. A notch 37 may be formed in the forward edge portion of the carrier 11 to make the operating knob 36 readily accessible.

Spring means is provided to yieldingly hold the

latch 29 in its active position where it is adapted to support the base 12 in a generally horizontal position under the carrier 11. This spring means may include a helical spring 38 surrounding the rod 33 and arranged under compression between the latch arm 32 and an adjacent guide 35. The spring 38 acting on the arm 32 urges the lower active part of the latch 29 forwardly to cooperate with the base 12. The base or inner wall of the notch 30 may limit the movement of the latch 29 under the action of the spring 38 to stop the latch in a position where it is engaged by the base 12 when the base is swung upwardly to its retracted position. The nose 31 of the latch 29 is formed to automatically come into latching and holding engagement with the base 12 when the base is swung upwardly to its horizontal retracted position. By pulling on the knob 36 the latch 29 may be pivoted to a released position where its nose 31 is disengaged from the base 12. This frees the base 12 so that it may be swung to its forward projected position.

The means 13 is provided to hold or support the base 12 and the typewriter T in the projected active position illustrated in Fig. 3. The means 13 comprises a pair of hinged braces 39. A brace 39 is hingedly connected with each longitudinal edge portion of the base 12. Hinges 40 may hingedly secure the braces 39 to the base 12. The hinges 40 have horizontal axes and secure the braces 39 to the side of the base 12 opposite the side of the base that carries the typewriter T. With the braces 39 secured to the base 12, as just described, the braces may lie substantially flat against the upper surface of the base when the base is in its retracted position shown in Figs. 1 and 2 and when in this position occupy the above mentioned space 28 between the carrier 11 and the base 12.

When the base 12 is swung or moved to its projected active position, shown in Fig. 3, the braces 39 move or may be moved to positions where they depend from the under side of the base. When the braces 39 are in the depending positions their inner edges 42 are in opposed adjacent relation to the inner legs 15 occurring in the mouth of the knee hole or space 21. As indicated by the broken lines in Fig. 1, the braces 39 may slope outwardly when depending from the base 12, as just described, so that their inner edges 42 are in direct opposition to the adjacent legs 15. Suitable bumpers or pads 41 are provided on the edges 42 of the braces 39 and are adapted to engage the adjacent legs 15. With the pads 41 in engagement with the legs 15 the braces 39 support the base 12 in its horizontal projected position where the typewriter T is adapted for use.

It is believed that the operation and use of the construction illustrated in Figs. 1, 2 and 3 of the drawings will be readily understood from the foregoing detailed description. When the typewriter T is not in use the base 12 carrying the typewriter is held latched in the retracted position by the latch 29 and the carrier 11 may be moved in on the supports 20 to a position in the inner portion of the knee space 21. This positions the typewriter T and the various elements of the typewriter supporting means where they do not interfere with the normal use of the desk. With the carrier 11 in the inner portion of the knee space 23 the typewriter T is spaced from the mouth of the space 23 and a person may comfortably sit at the desk. The drawer 19 and the drawers 17 are freely ac-

cessible for use. When it is desired to use the typewriter T the carrier 11 is moved forwardly to a position such as illustrated in Fig. 2 where its forward end is at or adjacent the stops 25. The knob 36 is then pulled to release the latch 29 from the base 12. This allows the base 12 carrying the typewriter T to be swung to the projected position shown in Fig. 3 of the drawings where the typewriter is upright and in position for use. The braces 39 move with the base 12 and when the base is brought to its projected position the braces 39 are swung laterally so that their pads 41 may engage against the legs 15. The weight of the typewriter T, the base 12 and the braces 39 holds the pads 41 in secure contact with the legs 15. The typewriter T is now in position for use.

When it is desired to return the typewriter T to its retracted inactive position, the braces 39 are moved inwardly or toward one another to lie against the under side of the base 12 and are held in this position while the base 12 carrying the typewriter T is swung inwardly under the carrier 11. As the base 12 approaches its retracted position its edge contacts the latch nose 31 so that the latch automatically comes into holding engagement with the base. The carrier 11 is then thrust inwardly to move the assembly to the inner portion of the knee space 23.

The form of the invention illustrated in Figs. 4 to 7 inclusive, of the drawings comprises, generally, a desk 10^a, a carrier 11^a shiftable in the desk 10^a, a base 12^a for a typewriter T, or the like, hinged to the shiftable carrier 11^a to be swung between a position under the carrier and a position at the outer edge of the carrier, means 13^a for supporting the base 12^a in the last named position, and other elements the details of which will be subsequently described.

The desk 10^a illustrated in Figs. 4 to 7, inclusive, is similar, generally, to the desk 10 except that it has only one row of drawers 17^a. The desk 10^a includes corner legs 14^a, a pair of inner legs 15^a, a top 16^a, a row of side drawers 17^a and a broader top drawer 19^a. The side drawers 17^a are arranged between one set of corner legs 14^a and the inner legs 15^a. The top drawer 19^a is immediately below the top 16^a and is positioned between the other corner legs 14^a and the inner legs 15^a. The space below the drawer 19^a forms the knee hole or knee space. The knee space is partially closed at its sides by the usual partition members of the desk and these members carry runners or supports 20^a for the drawer 19^a.

The carrier 11^a may be substantially identical with the carrier 11 described above. The carrier 11^a is a flat, rectangular member whose longitudinal edge portions run in grooves 24^a in the members 20^a. The carrier 11^a is movable from a position such as illustrated in Fig. 6 of the drawings where its inner edge is adjacent the forward wall 43 of the desk 10^a to a position such as shown in Fig. 7, where its forward edge is adjacent the front of the drawer 10^a. Stops 44 on the members 28 limit the outward movement of the carrier 11^a. The base 12^a may be the same as the base 12, that is, it may be a flat rectangular member somewhat smaller than the carrier 11^a. One end of the base 12^a is connected with the forward edge of the carrier 11^a by hinges 45. The hinges 45 carry the base 12^a so that it may be swung from a position under the carrier 11^a to a projected position where it extends outwardly from the forward edge of the carrier. In this

form of the invention the hinges 45 may be such that the base 12^a lies in close or adjacent relation to the under side of the carrier 11^a when the base is in the retracted position. This is illustrated in Fig. 6 of the drawings. The hinges 45 are preferably such that the base 12^a lies in the same horizontal plane as the carrier 11^a when the base is in the projected position shown in Fig. 7. A hand hold notch 46 may be formed in the forward edge portion of the base 12^a to facilitate the shifting of the assembly. The typewriter T is suitably secured to the base 12^a to be in an upright accessible position when the base 12^a is projected, as illustrated in Fig. 7.

Latch means is provided for releasably holding the base 12^a in the retracted position where the base and the typewriter T are beneath the carrier 11^a. This latch means may be identical with the latch means described above comprising a latch 29 pivoted in a notch in the rear edge of the carrier 11^a and cooperable with the edge portion of the base 12^a. The latch 29 is controlled by a rod 33 supported for horizontal movement by spaced guides 35 on the upper side of the carrier 11^a. The knob 36 on the forward end of the rod 33 is readily accessible when the carrier 11^a is in a position such as illustrated in Fig. 7. A spring 38 yieldingly holds the latch 29 in the position where it is adapted to hold the base 12^a retracted against the under side of the carrier 11^a.

The means 13^a is provided to hold the base 12^a in its projected position where the typewriter T is upright and accessible for use. The means 13^a includes braces 48 connected with the opposite longitudinal edges of the base 12^a by hinges 60. The hinges 60 are such that the braces 48 hang downwardly at the opposite sides of the typewriter T when the base 12^a is in its retracted position under the carrier 11^a. When the base 12^a is swung to its projected position where the typewriter T is upright the braces 48 swing downwardly or may be swung downwardly to hang from the base 12^a. The braces 48 are made to hang in inclined positions so that their edges 49 oppose the faces of the adjacent legs 14^a and 15^a. The longitudinal edges 50 of the base 12^a are bevelled to be engaged by the braces 48 and this engagement prevents the braces from swinging to vertical positions and thus holds the braces in the inclined positions where their edges 49 directly oppose the adjacent legs 14^a and 15^a. Pads 51 are provided on the edges 49 of the braces 48 to engage against the adjacent legs 14^a and 15^a. This engagement of the brace pads 51 with the legs 14^a and 15^a holds the base 12^a in its projected position where the typewriter T is horizontal and upright. It is to be observed that gravity serves to hold the braces 48 in the slightly angular positions where their pads 51 engage the legs 14^a and 15^a to hold the base 12^a in the correct projected position. Vibration due to operation of the typewriter T cannot cause disengagement of the brace pads 51 from the legs 14^a and 15^a.

The construction illustrated in Figs. 4 to 7, inclusive, of the drawings further includes a back member or guard 52 projecting from the base 12^a at the rear of the typewriter T. The guard 52 is in spaced adjacent relation to the rear side of the typewriter T and when the base 12^a is in its retracted position the guard depends from the base to prevent the clothing of a person using the desk from contacting the typewriter. In this connection it is to be observed that the braces 48

depend at opposite sides of the typewriter T when the base 12^a is in its retracted position so that the guard 52 and the braces 48 form a shield around the sides and the rear parts of the typewriter T. The guard 52 is preferably positioned to have a surface adjacent an edge of the desk top 16^a when the base 12^a is in its projected position. Spaced resilient or yielding pads 53 may be provided on the guard 52 to contact this edge of the top 16^a to steady the assembly and thus reduce vibration due to operation of the typewriter T. A rack 54 may be secured to the guard 52 to hold notebooks, papers, etc.

The use and operation of the structure illustrated in Figs. 4 to 7, inclusive, of the drawings, are substantially the same as in the foregoing form of the invention. When the typewriter T is not in use the parts may be in the positions illustrated in Figs. 4 and 6 of the drawings where the typewriter is in the inner portion of the knee space of the desk. The guard 52 and the depending brackets 48 prevent the clothes of a person sitting at the desk from being soiled from contact with the typewriter and protect the typewriter against injury. When it is desired to use the typewriter T the assembly is moved forwardly or outwardly by shifting the carrier 11 along the supports 20^a. The knob 36 is then engaged and operated to release the latch 29 so that the base 12^a carrying the typewriter T swings or may be swung downwardly and outwardly and then upwardly and forwardly to the position shown in Figs. 5 and 7. The braces 48 are brought to the positions illustrated in Figs. 5 and 7 where their pads 51 engage the adjacent legs 14^a and 15^a. This dependably supports the base 12^a in the position where the typewriter T is usable. The engagement of the pads 53 with the top 16^a of the desk 10^a assists in dampening vibration. To return the typewriter T to its retracted, inactive position the base 12^a is engaged and manually supported and the braces 48 are swung upwardly to lie adjacent the sides of the typewriter. The base carrying the typewriter is then swung to its retracted position where it is engaged and held by the latch 29.

Having thus described only typical preferred forms and applications of my invention, I do not wish to be limited or restricted to the specific details herein set forth, but wish to reserve to myself any variations or modifications that may appear to those skilled in the art or fall within the scope of the following claims.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. Means for mounting a typewriter or the like on a desk having a knee space comprising a base for carrying the typewriter, means supporting the base for swinging movement between a position in said space where the typewriter is inverted on the under side of the base and a projecting position at the mouth of the space where the typewriter is upright, and means movable with the base for supporting the base in the second named position, the last named means comprising a brace hinged to the base to pivot about an axis substantially parallel with the side edges of the base to depend therefrom and adapted to be swung laterally to bear on the face of the desk at one side of the knee space when the base is in said second named position.
2. Means for mounting a typewriter or the like on a desk having a knee space comprising a base for carrying the typewriter, means supporting the base for swinging movement between a position in said space where the typewriter is inverted

on the under side of the base and a projecting position at the mouth of the space where the typewriter is upright, and means movable with the base for supporting the base in the second named position, the last named means comprising 5 braces hinged to opposite edges of the base to lie against the upper side of the base when the base is in the said first named position and to depend from the base and bear on the face of the desk when the base is in the said second 10 named position.

3. Means for mounting a typewriter or the like on a desk having a knee space comprising a carrier shiftable in said space toward and away from a face of the desk, a base hinged to the 15 carrier to move therewith and supporting the typewriter, the base being swingable between a position beneath the carrier where the typewriter is inverted and a projecting position at the mouth of said space where the typewriter is upright, and 20 means for supporting the base in the second named position so that the typewriter may be used including a brace hinged to the base to depend therefrom and to pivot about an axis substantially parallel with the side edges of the base when the latter is in said second named position and adapted to be swung laterally to bear against the front of the desk at one side of the knee space.

4. A desk or like article comprising a top, a structure supporting the top with a space below the top, a carrier supported in said space, a base for carrying a typewriter or like device, means swingably securing the base to the carrier for movement between a position beneath the carrier 35 where said device is inverted and a position at an edge of the carrier where the said device is upright and exposed at the face of the said article, releasable means for supporting the base in the first named position, and means for supporting the base in the second mentioned position comprising braces hinged to the base to depend 40 from the base at the opposite sides of the device when the base is in the said first named position and to depend from the base and bear on the face of said article when the base is in said second mentioned position.

5. A desk or like article comprising a top, a structure supporting the top with a space below the top, a carrier shiftable supported in said space, a base for carrying a typewriter or like device, means swingably securing the base to the carrier for movement between a position beneath the carrier where said device is inverted and a position at an edge of the carrier where the said device is upright and exposed at the face of the said article, releasable means for supporting the base in the first named position comprising a latch on the carrier engageable with the base, and means for controlling the latch extending to said face of the article, and means for 60 supporting the base in the second named position.

supporting the base in the second named position.

6. Means for mounting a typewriter or the like on a desk having a knee space comprising a carrier shiftable in said space toward and away from a face of the desk, a base hinged to the carrier to move therewith and supporting the typewriter, the base being swingable between a position beneath the carrier where the typewriter is inverted and a projecting position at the mouth of said space where the typewriter is upright, releasable means for holding the base in the first named position, and means for supporting the base in the second named position comprising braces 15 swingably attached to the base to lie upon the base when the base is in the said first named position and adapted to depend from the base and bear on a face of the desk when the base is in said second named position.

7. Means for mounting a typewriter or the like on a desk having a knee space comprising a carrier shiftable in said space toward and away from a face of the desk, a base hinged to the carrier to move therewith and supporting the typewriter, the base being swingable between a position beneath the carrier where the typewriter is inverted and a projecting position at the mouth of said space where the typewriter is upright, releasable means for holding the base in the first named position, means for supporting the base in the second named position comprising braces swingably secured to the base to depend from its edges at opposite sides of the typewriter when the base is in the said first named position and adapted to depend from the base to bear on a face of the desk when the base is in the said second named position, and parts on the base limiting the downward swinging of the braces to stop them in positions where they bear on the said 40 face at opposite sides of said space.

8. Means for mounting a typewriter or the like on a desk having a knee space comprising a carrier shiftable in said space toward and away from a face of the desk, a base hinged to the carrier to move therewith and supporting the typewriter, the base being swingable between a position beneath the carrier where the typewriter is inverted and a projecting position at the mouth of said space where the typewriter is upright, releasable means for holding the base in the first named position, means for supporting the base in the second named position comprising braces swingably secured to the base to depend from its edges at opposite sides of the typewriter when the base is in the said first named position and adapted to depend from the base to bear on a face of the desk when the base is in the said second named position, and a guard on the base to protect the rear of the typewriter when the base is in said 55 first named position.

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