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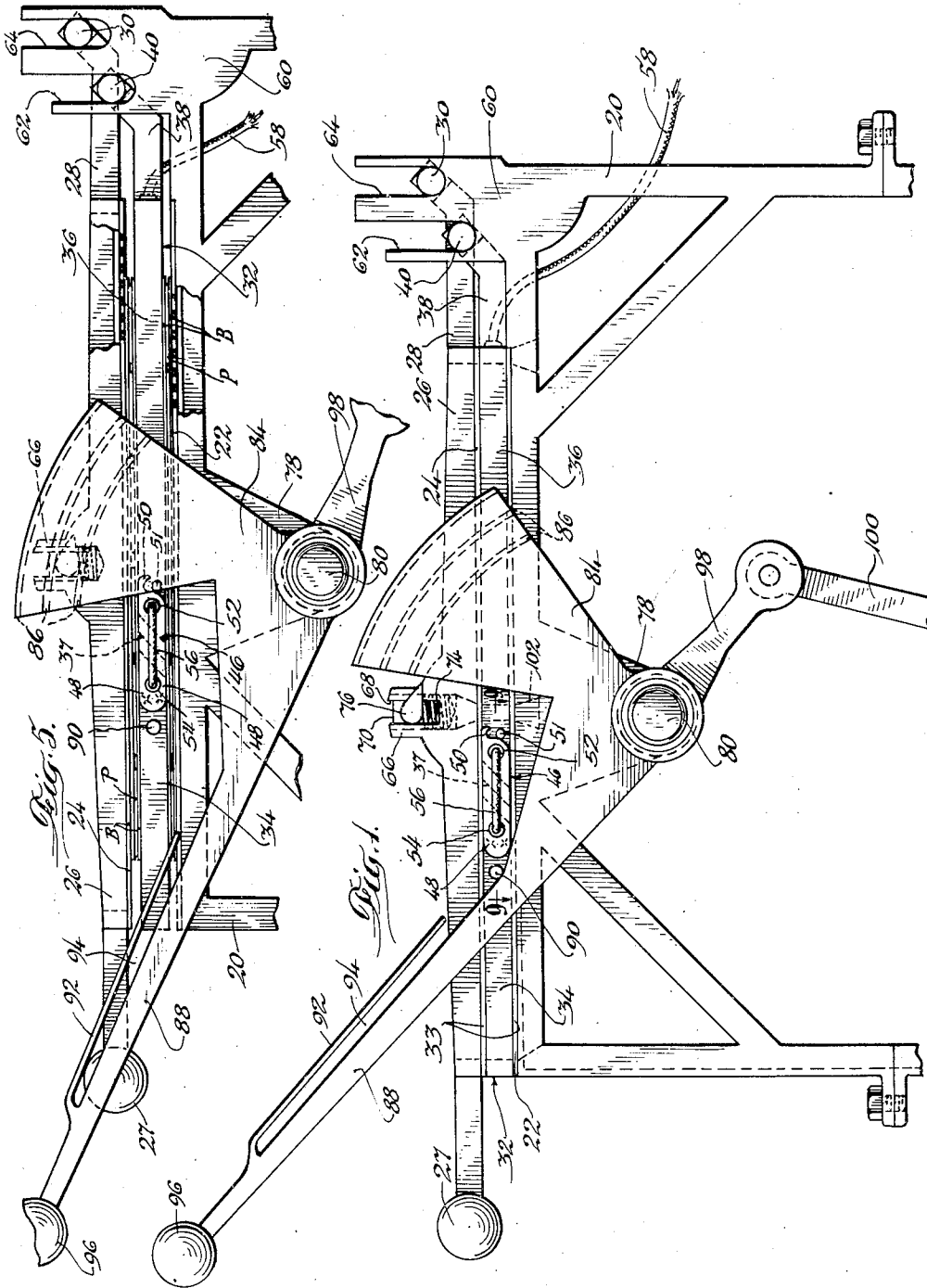
D. H. HESTER

2,477,603

PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINT DRYING AND MOUNTING APPARATUS

Filed Aug. 3, 1945

4 Sheets-Sheet 1



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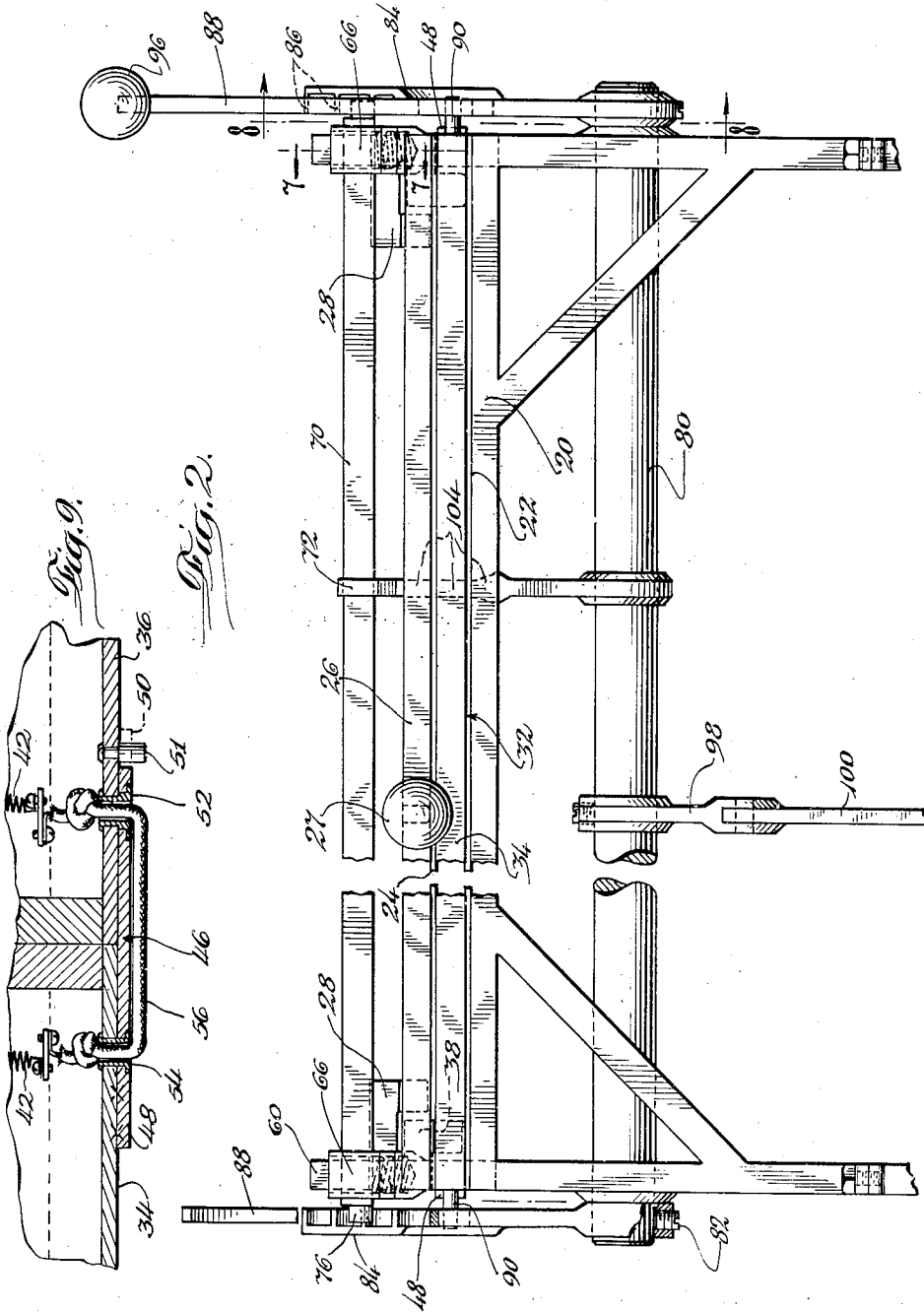
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PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINT DRYING AND MOUNTING APPARATUS

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4 Sheets-Sheet 2



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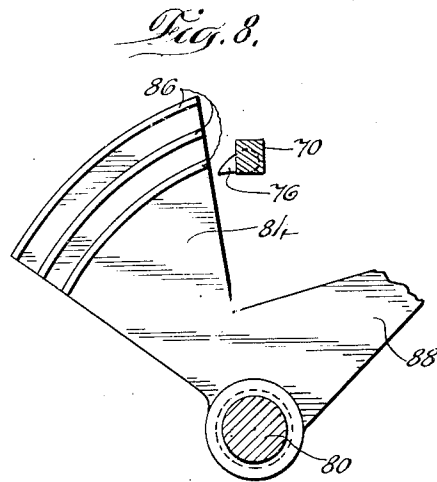
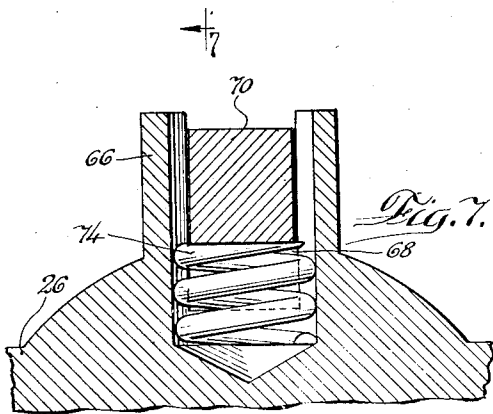
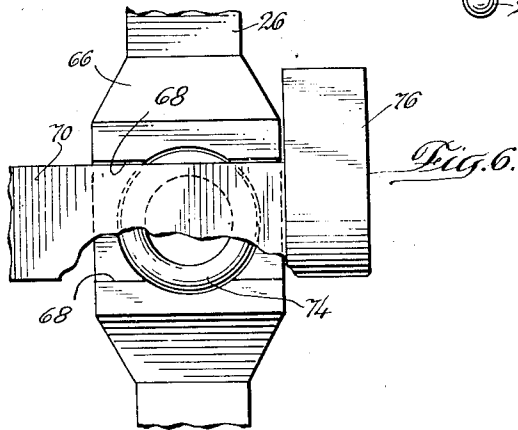
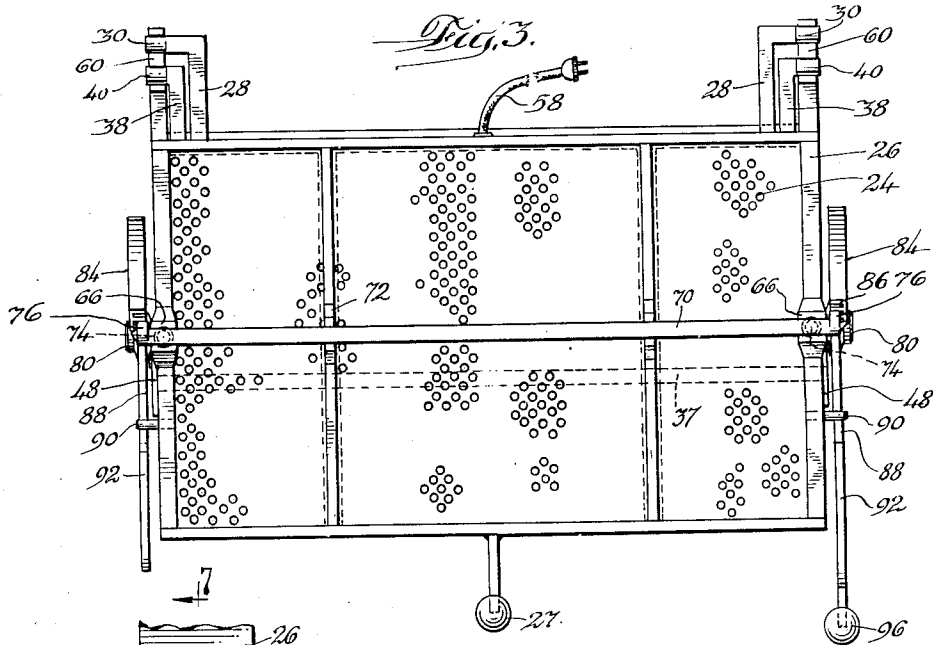
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PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINT DRYING AND MOUNTING APPARATUS

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4 Sheets-Sheet 3



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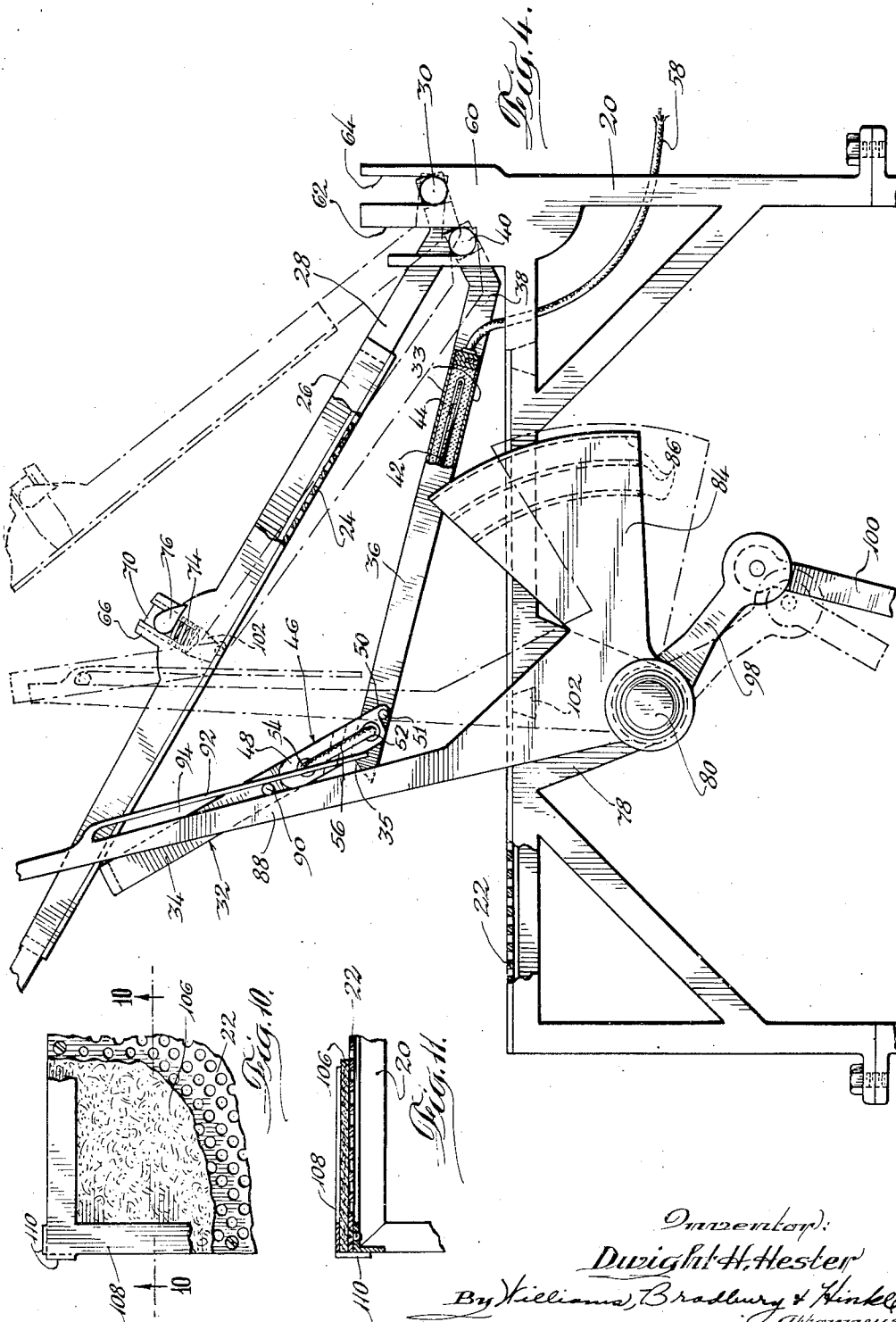
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PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINT DRYING AND MOUNTING APPARATUS

Filed Aug. 3, 1945

4 Sheets-Sheet 4



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,477,603

## PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINT DRYING AND MOUNTING APPARATUS

Dwight H. Hester, Chicago, Ill.

Application August 3, 1945; Serial No. 608,630

15 Claims. (Cl. 34-144)

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This invention relates to an apparatus for drying and mounting photographic prints, and particularly to an apparatus adapted both for drying prints and for dry mounting prints.

Photographic prints after developing and fixing must be dried, and commonly they are held over a heated surface under only light pressure. In most cases, prints are held over a curved surface by fabric aprons or sheets, with the result that when dried the prints are curved and at least the edges thereof are rippled or wrinkled. The prints must then be flattened or straightened by the use of a suitable press. In my apparatus flat perforated sheets are provided which permit escape of moisture and yet provide rigid pressing surfaces. The prints are dried flat and are ready for mounting when removed from the dryer.

Dry mounting of prints is ordinarily accomplished by tacking dry mounting tissue to the back of the print and then tacking the print to the mounting board or folder, after which the mounting assembly is subjected to heat and pressure in a dry mounting press. The tacking of the print to the board causes the face of the print to have a different finish at the tacking points than on the remainder of the print. This is commonly known as "patchwork." My apparatus avoids "patchwork" by the provision of a heating plate of two hinged sections. One section is brought to rest over a portion of the mounting board on which the print with the tissue tacked to the back thereof is held by hand. The weight of this section holds the assembly against shifting, and the hand of the operator may then be removed and the other plate section swung over the remainder of the assembly. Since the print is not tacked to the board, no "patchwork" results. The apparatus permits a clear view of the work and working surfaces, and provides ample working space for the hands of the operator.

It is an object of this invention to provide a device adapted both for drying photographic prints and for dry mounting prints.

Another object of the invention is the provision of a device which smooths and flattens photographic prints while drying the same under heat and pressure.

A further object is the provision of a device which simplifies the dry mounting of photographic prints through the provision of means requiring a minimum number of steps for this operation.

It is also an object to provide apparatus of

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greatly increased capacity for drying and dry mounting photographic prints.

An additional object of the invention is the provision of an apparatus for drying photographic prints under heat and pressure which includes means for applying pressure uniformly through the pressing parts of the apparatus.

A still further object is the provision of apparatus for the dry mounting of photographic prints by which "patchwork" on the prints is avoided.

It is also an object to provide an apparatus for drying and dry mounting photographic prints in which the pressing parts are arranged to accommodate material of various thicknesses.

Still another object of the invention is the provision of an apparatus for subjecting photographic prints to heat and pressure in which a heating plate of two sections is provided; permitting movement of one section into print engaging and holding position ahead of the other and eliminating special holding means; and also affording greater ease of operation.

Other objects and advantages will appear more fully from the following description and from the accompanying drawings, in which similar characters of reference indicate similar parts throughout the several views:

In the drawings;

Fig. 1 is a fragmentary side elevational view of the print drying and dry mounting apparatus, with the parts in a neutral position;

Fig. 2 is a broken front elevational view of the apparatus as shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the apparatus as shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 1 but showing the parts in a partially open position in full lines and in fully open position in broken lines;

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary view similar to Fig. 1, but with the parts in pressing position;

Fig. 6 is an enlarged fragmentary detail view of a portion of Fig. 3;

Fig. 7 is a vertical sectional view taken along the line 7-7 of Fig. 6;

Fig. 8 is a fragmentary sectional view taken along the line 8-8 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 9 is fragmentary sectional view taken along the line 9-9 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 10 is a fragmentary plan view of a portion of the apparatus, illustrating a modified form thereof; and

Fig. 11 is a horizontal sectional view taken along the line 11-11 of Fig. 10.

The apparatus of this invention is illustrated as mounted on a suitable frame 20; although the

apparatus may be adapted to be mounted on any suitable support, such as a table or bench. A rectangular bed plate 22 is fixed on the frame 20 and preferably is perforated so that apertures are provided therein for the escape of moisture when prints are being dried. A similar plate 24 is secured on a frame 26 which has a suitable knob or handle 27 on the front end and a pair of arms 28 extending from the rear end thereof. Integral with each arm 28 and extending at an angle thereto and parallel to the rear edge of the frame 26 is a portion with a cylindrical pivot member 30 formed thereon. The plate 24 constitutes a pressure plate and is mounted in opposed relation to the bed plate 22.

Interposed between the plates 22 and 24 is a heating plate 32 with two smooth substantially rigid parallel heating faces 33. The plate 32 comprises a front section 34 and a rear section 36. Extending from the rear edge of the rear section 36 is a pair of arms 38 each having a portion extending at an angle thereto and parallel to the rear edge of the section 36 and having a cylindrical pivot portion 40 formed thereon. An electrical heating element 42 is disposed within each of the heating plate sections 34 and 36 between the heating plate faces 33, and asbestos 44 or other heat insulating material may envelop the heating element. The heating elements 42 are electrically connected by suitable connections 46, which also serve as hinges pivotally connecting the sections 34 and 36.

The combined hinge and electrical connections 46, one of which is provided at each side of the heating plate 32, may take any suitable form. The hinge connections are shown in the drawings, particularly Fig. 9, as each comprising an elongated plate 48 rigidly secured to the section 34 and having a hollow pivot element 52 extending into the section 36. A tubular rivet 54 or the like extends through the plate 48 into the section 34. A suitable insulated electrical conductor 56 extends through the hollow pivot 52 and tubular projection 54 and along the plate 48, and connects the heating elements 42. A suitable adjustable thermostat (not shown) is preferably employed to maintain the heating plate 32 at any desired temperature. A higher temperature is required for dry mounting prints than for drying prints, so that the heating plate should have at least two heat levels.

The meeting edges 35 of the sections 34 and 36 are formed at an angle so that they form a beveled joint 37 to prevent swinging of the front section 34 relative to the rear section 36 in the direction toward the bed plate 22. A projection 50 is formed at the pivot end of the plate 48 to engage a stop pin 51 projecting from the edge of the section 36. By this means, the swinging movement of the section 34 on the section 36 in the direction away from the plate 22 is limited. The extension 50 and pin 51 may be so disposed relative to each other as to permit any desired degree of swinging movement of the section 34 although preferably and as shown in the drawing, they are disposed to permit the section 34 to swing approximately 45 degrees.

At each side of the rear end of the frame 20 there is provided a rigid extension 60 projecting vertically above the plane of the bed plate 22. A vertical slot 62 is formed in each extension 60 having a semi-circular bottom surface positioned somewhat above the plane of the bed plate 22. A similar slot 64 is also formed in the extension 60

to the rear of the slot 62 and with its bottom spaced above the bottom of the slot 62 a distance substantially corresponding to the thickness of the heating plate 32. The pivot portions 30 of the pressure plate 24 are disposed in the slots 64, and the pivot portions 40 of the heating plate 32 are disposed in the slots 62. The plates 24 and 32 may thus be swung about the pivots in the slots, and the pivots may move vertically in the slots so that the plates may be disposed parallel to the bed plate 22 regardless of the space which may be required therebetween at various times to accommodate material of different thicknesses.

Means are provided to apply pressure to the plates 22, 24, and 32 when prints are being dried or mounted in the apparatus. On the upper surface of the plate 24, preferably on the end members of the frame 26, there are provided projections 66 substantially perpendicular to the plate 24, and each having a slot 68 therein. A pressure bar 70 is disposed in the slots 68 with its ends projecting beyond the side edges of the plate 24. Suitable pressure shoes 72, which may be integral with the bar 70, depend therefrom and are adapted for pressing engagement with the pressure plate 24, or more accurately with portions of the frame 26 thereof. The bar 70 is biased away from the plate 24, and the pressure shoes 72 are normally held out of pressing contact with the frame 26 by suitable biasing means such as the coil springs 74, which may be disposed in the slotted projections 66 with the bar 70 resting thereon. Each end 76 of the bar 70 is formed with a cross section corresponding generally to a teardrop shape, with the sharp edge thereof extending toward the rear of the frame 20. The projections 66 are preferably disposed substantially half way between the front and rear edges of the frame 26, and the pressure shoes 72 are preferably spaced to distribute pressure uniformly across the plate 24. For example, if two shoes 72 are provided, they are spaced apart a distance substantially twice the distance of each shoe from the edge of the plate 24 adjacent thereto. The pressure plate 24 may be arched slightly so that the portion beneath the bar 70 is slightly higher than the front and rear edges before pressure is applied thereto, and is flattened upon application of pressure. The plate thus cushions the apparatus as pressure is applied, and has a slight ironing or smoothing effect on the work as the front and rear edges are spread apart slightly upon flattening of the plate.

A suitable plate or bracket 78 depends from each side of the frame 20 below the projections 66, and a rock shaft 80 extends beneath the frame 20 and is journaled in the brackets 78 with its ends projecting beyond the side edges of the frame 20 and plates 22, 24 and 32. The axes of the bar 70 and the shaft 80 are preferably in the same vertical plane. Secured to each end of the shaft 80 in any suitable manner, as by a set screw 82, is a camming plate 84 substantially parallel to the side edges of the plates 22, 24 and 32. Each plate 84 has a plurality of arcuate ribs 86 formed on the surface thereof adjacent the frame 20 and projecting sufficiently from the plate 84 to engage the adjacent end 76 of the bar 70. The ribs 86 have a common center of curvature located forwardly of the axis of the rock shaft 80. In fixed relation with each camming plate 84, and preferably formed integral therewith, is a lever or arm 88 normally extending forwardly and upwardly from the rock shaft 80. Projecting from

each end of the rear heating plate section 34 is a pin 90 engageable by the upper surface of the arm 88. Each arm 88 carries a guide arm 92 in spaced parallel relation to the upper surface of the arm 88. The guide arm 92 is integrally secured at its end remote from the pin 90 to the arm 88, and has its other end free and spaced somewhat short of the pin 90 in initial engaging position of the pin and arm 88. A slot 94 is thus defined between the arm 88 and the guide arm 92 in which the pin 90 is guided when it moves along the arm 88 as hereinafter described. A suitable knob or handle 96 may be provided on the end of one or both of the arms 88 to provide a convenient manual gripping means. A handle 96 is shown in the drawings as provided on the right-hand arm 88 as viewed in Figures 2 and 3. The rock shaft 80 may be oscillated by means of the arms 88.

The rock shaft 80 may also be provided with any other suitable means for rotation thereof. For example, a lever linkage 98 and 100 actuatable by a treadle (not shown) may be arranged to rotate the shaft clockwise as viewed in Figures 1 and 5. A crank or handle (not shown) may be connected to the shaft 80 for manual rotation thereof in either direction, although the arm 88 will answer this purpose.

When the rock shaft 80 is rotated in a counterclockwise direction, as viewed in Figs. 1 and 5, the ends 76 of the pressure bar 70 will be engaged by one of the ribs 86 on each of the camming plates 84, and continued counterclockwise rotation will result in the bar 70 being urged toward the pressure plate 24, by reason of the location of the center of the curvature of the ribs 86 as previously described. The bar 70 is thus cammed downwardly and the pressure shoes 72 are brought into pressing engagement with the frame 26, and pressure is thus exerted upon all of the plates 22, 32 and 24, and any prints and other material which may be disposed between the plates. As already explained, the plates 22, 24 and 32 may be disposed in parallel relation regardless of the thickness of the particular work or material disposed therebetween, by reason of the floating pivots 39 and 40. Since the material which may be accommodated by the plates may vary considerably in thickness, the level of the ends 76 of the pressure bar 70 will vary according to the material being acted on by the apparatus. By reason of the provision of a plurality of ribs 86 on each of the camming plates 84, however, the ends 76 are always engageable by one or another of the ribs for the camming action already described.

The shape of the ends 76, providing a surface sloping upwardly from the rear, permits a rib 86 on each plate 84 to engage an end 76 initially below the upper portion or top thereof and force the end 76 downwardly until the rib engages the top of the end 76. Continued movement of the rib then further cams the end 76 and bar 70 downwardly as described above. Of course, the ends 76 may be at a level such that the top portions thereof are engaged by the corresponding ribs without prior movement of the ribs on the sloping surfaces of the bar ends. In any event, one or another of the ribs on each camming plate will be in position to engage an end 76, regardless of variations in the level of the bar 70 within the limits of the apparatus. The initial engagement of the rib and bar end may be at a point intermediate the ends of the rib. The length of the ribs 86 is such that the bar 70 may be moved

downwardly a sufficient distance to apply the necessary or desired pressure to the plates 22, 24 and 32, regardless of the initial engagement of the ribs and bar ends.

The plates 22, 24 and 32 are preferably provided with reinforcing frame members 102 in substantially vertical alignment with each other and with the bar 70, and also with reinforcing frame members 104 disposed in vertical alignment with the pressure shoes 72. The frame members 104 of the frame 26 thus directly receive the pressure of the shoes 72 and transmit it to the remainder of the frame 26 and to plate 24. By the disposition of the pressure bar 70 centrally of the pressure and the described spacing of the shoes 72, pressure is applied uniformly to the plate 24, and thereby to the plates 32 and 22.

It will be clear that upon clockwise rotation of the shaft 80, as viewed in Fig. 1, the pressure on the bar 70 and on the plates will be released as the ribs 86 are moved out of engagement with the bar ends 76. The treadle and levers 98 and 100 are arranged to cause such clockwise rotation, although it may be effected by other means, as already pointed out.

As may best be understood from Fig. 4, clockwise rotation of the shaft 80 carries each arm 88 into engagement with its associated pin 90, and continuation of the rotation forces the pin to ride upwardly on the arm 88 in the guide slot 94. The front heating plate section 34 is thus swung upwardly until the extension 50 of the hinge plate 48 engages against the stop pin 51. As the section 34 swings upwardly, the front edge thereof engages the plate 24 and slides on the lower surface thereof to raise the plate 24, swinging it about the pivots 30. After the extension 50 and stop pin 51 have come into engagement, further clockwise rotation of the arm 88 causes the pin 90 to ride further upwardly in the slot 94, and results in the rear section 36 of the heating plate 32 being moved upwardly in fixed angular relation with the front section 34, the heating plate 32 thus being swung in its bent condition about the pivots 40. The pressure plate 24, of course, also continues its swinging movement as the plate 32 is swung upwardly. When the pins 90 reach the ends of the slots 94 at the junctions of the arms 88 and guide arms 92, further upward movement of the plates is halted, and the plates may be held in their elevated positions by a slight force acting to prevent reverse rotation of the shaft 80 and arms 88.

By forming the heating plate 32 in two sections, as described, the initial swinging movement is facilitated, and the weight which must be raised as the arms 88 first contact the pins 90 is reduced. This construction also permits the pressure plate 24 to be separated from the heating plate 32, and to be swung upwardly thereby in separated relation thereto. The two-section construction of the heating plate 32 has another advantage. Upon counterclockwise rotation of the rock shaft 80 and arms 88, as viewed in Fig. 4, the heating plate 32 and pressure plate 24 are of course lowered, the pins 90 riding downwardly on the arms 88. The heating plate sections 34 and 36 remain in their fixed angular relation during this downward movement, however, until the section 36 has come to rest in a horizontal position. The section 36 thus may be utilized to hold prints or a mounting assembly on the plate 22 by engaging over a portion thereof, and the front section 34 subsequently lowered to cover the remaining portion. The work may be held manually until the

section 36 is lowered. It is therefore unnecessary to provide means to hold the work until the entire heating plate is brought into contact therewith, as would be the case if the heating plate 32 were of a one piece construction, and yet shifting of the work is prevented.

In drying photographic prints in the apparatus, several methods may be employed. Canvas or other fabric may be placed over the surface of each of the plates 22 and 24, and preferably secured thereon in fairly taut condition. The wet prints are placed face down on the fabric covering the bed plate, the heating plate is lowered, and more prints are placed face up on the upper surface of the heating plate and the pressure plate 24 lowered to bring the fabric into contact with the prints. The plates are then pressed together by means of the camming plates 34 and pressure bar 70 as explained above. The pressure is maintained until the heat provided by the heating plate 32 has dried the prints. After the prints have been dried, the plates may be separated by means of the arms 88, as has already been explained, and the prints removed.

Another method for drying prints consists in placing the prints between blotters, and then placing one set of blotters and prints on the bed plate 22 and lowering the heating plate, placing another set of blotters and prints on the heating plate, lowering the pressure plate thereover and then applying the pressure to the plates. While one group of prints and blotters are in the apparatus, another group may be prepared for insertion therein. The blotters may be used over and over again, since they are dried in the apparatus as well as the prints. Fig. 5 illustrates prints P sandwiched between blotters B and disposed between the plates as described.

The drying methods described above apply to dull prints. For glossy prints, a squeegee plate is provided on which the prints are placed face down, and the reverse sides of the prints are covered by a blotter. One set of prints sandwiched between squeegee plates and blotters is placed between the bed plate and heating plate, and another set between the heating plate and pressure plate, and pressure then applied to the apparatus.

A modification of the construction is illustrated in Figs. 10 and 11. In this construction, a layer of absorbent material 106, such as felt, is disposed over the surface of the bed plate 22, and a similar layer is disposed on the lower surface of the pressure plate 24. A holding frame 108 of suitable material such as light sheet metal or the like may be employed to secure the material 106 at the edges of the plates. The holding frame 108 may be held on the plates 20 and 24 by resilient tongues 110 at the corners thereof which grip the plate frames, or any other suitable means may be provided for this purpose. This modified construction is particularly useful in the mounting of prints in folders, since the felt or similar pad-like material compensates for the difference in thickness of the folder resulting from the cut-out portion thereof.

In the dry mounting of prints in the apparatus, the mounting board is placed on the bed plate 22, and the print with the dry mounting tissue tacked to the back thereof is placed on the mounting board in the desired position and held by hand. If the print is to be mounted in a folder, the print is placed on the mounting portion of the folder and the cut-out portion of the folder folded over the print. The heating plate is then lowered as

already explained, until the rear section 36 contacts the work and holds it against shifting. The front section 34 is then lowered over the print and mounting board, and if desired additional mounting assemblies may be placed between the heating plate and the pressure plate 24. The mounting assemblies are then held under heat and pressure in the apparatus for the necessary length of time, the dry mounting tissue causing secure adherence of the prints to the mounting boards.

The provision of the heating plate 32 with two smooth heating surfaces between a pair of plates to hold prints or mounting assemblies adjacent each heating surface greatly increases the capacity of the apparatus. The apparatus of this invention can produce twice the volume of work of a device employing a heating plate of equal size but with only a single heating surface.

The foraminated plates 22 and 24 permit ready escape of moisture-laden vapor, and yet provide smooth, rigid pressing surfaces for the prints or mounting assemblies. Dried prints when removed from the device are smooth and flat, ready for mounting, and no smoothing press is required.

Although the apparatus has been illustrated and described as mounted with the plates in horizontal position, it will be understood that the apparatus may be arranged and mounted in such a manner that after material has been disposed therein the device may be placed in a vertical position. Such an arrangement is particularly advantageous where the saving of floor space is an important consideration.

The apparatus combines the functions of a print dryer and dry mounting press, and also performs the function of a print smoothing press. The device thus replaces several separate pieces of photographic equipment and simplifies print preparation and dry mounting of prints.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A photographic print drying and mounting apparatus comprising a foraminous bed plate, a heating plate hingedly mounted in superposable relation to said bed plate, a foraminous pressure plate hingedly mounted in superposable relation to said heating plate, a pressure bar carried by said pressure plate for perpendicular movement relative thereto, and means pivotally associated with said bed plate and engaging said pressure bar to move said pressure bar against said pressure plate to exert pressure on said plates.

2. A photographic print drying and mounting apparatus comprising a bed plate, a heating plate superposable on said bed plate, a pressure plate superposable on said heating plate, aligned slotted members on said pressure plate substantially perpendicular thereto, a pressure bar having its end extending through said slotted members and beyond opposed edges of the pressure plate, biasing means urging said bar away from said pressure plate, and camming means pivotally supported with reference to said bed plate for forcing said bar against said pressure plate to place said plates under pressure.

3. A photographic print drying and mounting apparatus comprising a bed plate, a heating plate formed of a pair of sections hinged to each other and superposable on said bed plate, a pressure plate superposable on said heating plate, said heating plate and pressure plate each being hingedly mounted relative to each other and to said bed plate, means to exert pressure on said plates in superposed relation, and means engag-

ing said heating plate to swing one section of said heating plate and said pressure plate away from said bed plate and said pressure plate away from said heating plate upon limited movement of said means, and upon further movement of said means to swing both sections of said heating plate and said pressure plate away from said bed plate.

4. A photographic print drying and mounting apparatus comprising a bed plate, a heating plate superposable on said bed plate, a pressure plate superposable on said heating plate, said heating plate and pressure plate each being hingedly mounted relative to each other and to said bed plate, and means to exert pressure on said plates in superposed relation, said means comprising a plurality of aligned slotted projections on said pressure plate, a pressure bar guided in said projections and having its ends extending beyond opposed edges of said pressure plate, a pair of camming plates each spaced from one of said pressure plate edges and pivoted at one end for oscillation in a plane substantially perpendicular to said pressure plate, an arcuate rib at the other end of said camming plate having a center of curvature other than the pivot point of said camming plate, and means to rotate said camming plate for engagement of an end of said pressure bar by said rib to cam said bar into pressing relation with said pressure plate, heating plate, and bed plate.

5. A photographic print drying and mounting apparatus comprising a bed plate, a heating plate superposable on said bed plate and formed of a front section and a rear section hinged to each other, stop means to limit relative hinging movement of said sections, a pressure plate superposable on said heating plate, said heating plate and pressure plate being hingedly mounted relative to said bed plate and to each other, and means to swing said heating plate and pressure plate away from said bed plate and said pressure plate from said heating plate, and said swinging means comprising a projection at an edge of the front heating plate section, a pivoted lever having a surface engageable with said projection upon rotation of said lever in one direction to cause said projection to ride on said surface for initial swinging movement of said front section, and subsequent swinging movement of both sections, away from said bed plate, said swinging movements causing swinging of said pressure plate by engagement of said front section therewith.

6. A photographic print drying and mounting apparatus comprising a bed plate, a heating plate superposable on said plate and formed of a rear section and a forward section hinged to said rear section for swinging movement relative thereto in a direction away from said bed plate and having means limiting said swinging movement, a pressure plate superposable on said heating plate, individual hinge means for said heating plate and said pressure plate each comprising a pair of aligned slotted members in fixed relation to said bed plate and a pair of pivots at one end of each of said heating and pressure plates slidably engaged in said slotted members to permit disposition of said plates in varyingly spaced parallel relation for accommodation of different thicknesses of material therebetween, means for exerting pressure on said plates in superposed relation comprising a pressure bar extending across said pressure plate in movable relation thereto, a plurality of aligned slotted members on said pressure plate substantially perpendicular thereto and receiving said pressure

bar in guided sliding relation therein, biasing means urging said bar away from said pressure plate, a camming plate disposed adjacent each of a pair of opposed edges of said pressure plate, a rock shaft connecting said camming plates for oscillation thereof in planes substantially perpendicular to said pressure plate, a plurality of arcuate parallel ribs on one face of each camming plate having a center of curvature adjacent but eccentric to the axis of said rock shaft, one of said ribs determined by the distance of said pressure bar from said rock shaft engaging an end of said pressure bar upon rotation of said camming plate in one direction to cam said bar into pressing relation with said pressure plate, heating plate, and bed plate and disengaging said bar end upon reverse rotation of said camming plate, and means to separate said pressure plate, heating plate, and bed plate comprising a pair of pins each extending from one of a pair of opposed edges of said forward heating plate section, a pair of elongated arms each in fixed relation to one of said camming plates and oscillatable therewith, each arm engaging one of said pins upon said reverse rotation of said camming plate, said pin riding on said arm for initial swinging movement of said forward section relative to said rear section to the limit of said movement and swinging of said pressure plate away from said heating plate by engagement of said forward section with said pressure plate during said initial swinging movement and for subsequent swinging movement of said heating plate and pressure plate about the respective pivots thereof away from said bed plate.

7. A photographic print drying and mounting apparatus comprising a bed plate, a pressure plate, a heating plate disposed between said bed plate and pressure plate, said plates being adapted for spaced superposed disposition, and hinge means permitting variation in the spacing of said plates, said means comprising a first pair of aligned slotted members in fixed and substantially perpendicular relation to said bed plate, a pair of pivot pins at one end of said heating plate each rotatably disposed in one of said slotted members and movable therein perpendicularly to said bed plate, a second pair of aligned slotted members in fixed and substantially perpendicular relation to said bed plate, and a pair of pivot pins on the end of said pressure plate adjacent said one end of said heating plate each rotatably disposed in one of said second pair of slotted members and movable therein perpendicularly to said bed plate.

8. A photographic print drying and mounting apparatus comprising a bed plate, a pressure plate, and a heating plate disposed between said bed plate and pressure plate, said heating plate comprising a front section and a rear section each containing an electrical heating element, means electrically connecting said heating elements, means pivotally connecting said sections and permitting said front section to swing relative to said rear section in the direction away from said bed plate, stop means limiting the extent of said relative swinging movement, and means movable in one direction to swing first said front section and then both sections away from said bed plate and also movable in the opposite direction to swing first said rear section and then said front section into superposed relation to said bed plate.

9. A photographic print drying and mounting apparatus comprising a heating plate formed of a pair of sections hinged to each other, a pair of foraminous plates one on each side of said

heating plate, hinge means for said heated plate associated with one of said sections, and hinge means for one of said foraminous plates, whereby said hinged plates may be swung relative to each other and to the other foraminous plate and one of said heating plate sections may be swung relative to the other section and said last mentioned foraminous plate.

10. A photographic print drying and mounting apparatus comprising a frame, a foraminous bed plate secured to said frame, a heating plate hingedly mounted to said frame in superposable relation to said bed plate, a foraminous pressure plate hingedly mounted to said frame in superposable relation to said heating plate, a pressure bar carried by said pressure plate for perpendicular movement relative thereto, resilient means biasing said pressure bar away from said pressure plate, and means to move said pressure bar against the force of said resilient means toward said pressure plate to exert pressure upon said plates including a part carried by said pressure bar selectively engageable by and disengageable from an element carried by said frame.

11. A photographic print drying and mounting apparatus comprising a frame, a foraminous bed plate secured to said frame, a heating plate hingedly mounted to said frame in superposable relation to said bed plate, a foraminous pressure plate hingedly mounted to said frame in superposable relation to said heating plate, a pressure bar carried by said pressure plate for perpendicular movement relative thereto, means to move said pressure bar toward said pressure plate to exert pressure on said plates, said means including a part carried by said pressure bar selectively engageable by and disengageable from an element carried by said frame, and means for swinging said heating plate and said pressure plate away from and toward said bed plate, said last mentioned means and said element being so connected that said element is disengaged from said part before the swinging movement can be effected.

12. A photographic print drying and mounting apparatus comprising a bed plate, a pressure plate pivotally mounted relative to said bed plate, a heating plate disposed between said bed plate and said pressure plate, said heating plate comprising a front section and a rear section, each containing means for heating said sections, means pivotally connecting said sections and permitting said front section to swing relative to said rear section in the direction away from said bed plate, and means pivotally mounting said rear section relative to said bed plate so that said rear section may be swung in the direction away from said bed plate.

13. A photographic print drying and mounting apparatus comprising a bed plate, a pressure plate pivotally mounted relative to said bed plate, a

heating plate disposed between said bed plate and said pressure plate, said heating plate comprising a front section and a rear section, means pivotally connecting said sections and permitting said front section to swing relative to said rear section in the direction away from said bed plate, stop means limiting the extent of said relative swinging movement, means pivotally mounting said rear section relative to said bed plate, and means movable in one direction to swing first said front section and then both sections away from said bed plate and also movable in the opposite direction to swing first said rear section and then said front section into superposed relation to said bed plate.

14. A photographic print drying and mounting apparatus comprising a bed plate, a pressure plate, a heating plate disposed between said bed plate and said pressure plate, said plates being adapted for spaced superposed disposition, means pivotally mounting said pressure plate and said heating plate to said bed plate, said mounting means including a lost motion connection permitting said plates to assume different relative perpendicularly spaced superposed positions, and means including resilient means for locking said plates in said superposed positions.

15. A photographic print drying and mounting apparatus comprising a bed plate, a pressure plate pivotally mounted relative to said bed plate, a heating plate disposed between said bed plate and said pressure plate, said heating plate comprising a pair of sections hinged to each other, and means pivotally mounting said heating plate relative to said bed plate, whereby said heating plate and said pressure plate may be swung relative to each other and said bed plate and one of said heating plate sections may be swung relative to the other section and said bed plate.

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