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1,450,821

C. H. SCHUTZ

EASEL

Filed June 6, 1921

Fig. 1

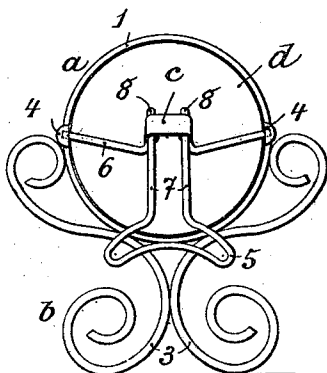


Fig. 2

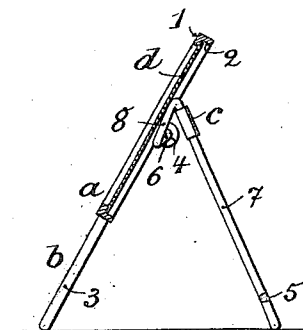
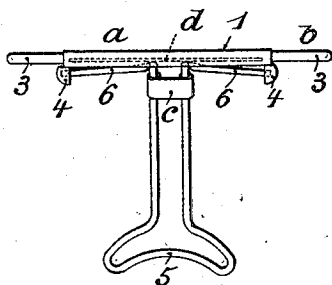


Fig. 3



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES HENRI SCHUTZ, OF PARIS, FRANCE.

EASEL.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES HENRI SCHUTZ, a citizen of the Republic of France, residing at Paris, 9 Rue des Muriers, in the Republic of France, industrial, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Easels (for which I have filed application in France dated Nov. 6, 1914; in Germany dated March 4, 1920; in England dated Jan. 10, 1921; in Spain dated Dec. 30, 1919), of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in easels for holding photographs, miniatures and the like and which usually comprise a support or frame adapted to receive the photograph or like object, and a foot which is pivoted to the back of the said frame.

According to my invention, the foot is so constructed and pivoted to the frame as to be easily removed from the latter whereby the photograph may be inserted in the frame through the back part thereof, and the said foot is so arranged that when disposed in place it will also serve to maintain the photograph in position in a reliable manner, and the latter will not require to be held in the frame by any special fixing device.

This result may be obtained firstly by providing an opening in the frame whose edge is cut away at the back part in order to receive the photograph or like object after the manner of a frame whereby it is prevented from leaving the said frame at the front portion thereof. Instead of using a continuous cut away portion, the edge of the opening may be provided with a plurality of projecting portions, claws, catches, hooks or the like whereby the photograph may be held in the same manner. Secondly, the said foot is pivoted to the frame by two articulations disposed at the same level at the back of the frame and on either side of the opening, the upper part of the said foot being so disposed as to come in contact with the back of the photograph when the easel is set up in place. The said articulations are moreover constructed so as to be easily removable, for instance by means of an elastic bending of the upper part of the said foot whereby the articulated portions of the foot may be disengaged from the co-acting parts of the frame.

The following description together with the accompanying drawings shows a constructional form of an easel according to my invention, it being understood that the form

of the said frame and of the foot, as well as the method dismountable articulation, may be modified as desired.

Figure 1 is a rear elevation of the easel, the frame being in the vertical position and the foot obliquely raised.

Figure 2 is a cross-section of the same.

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the easel viewed from the top.

a indicates the framework and *b* the foot of the easel.

The framework is constituted by a frame 1 having a cut out portion 2 at the back part thereof and provided with the bearing lugs 3 secured to this frame. The latter may also comprise various parts attached thereto for purely decorative purposes.

Such parts together with the lugs 3, may be formed in a single piece with the frame.

At the rear of the latter are secured two eyelets 4 serving as bearing and having disposed therein the journals of the foot *b*. This latter is constituted by a metal wire which is bent into a suitable shape according to a symmetrical disposition. The middle part of the said wire forms the base 5 of the foot, and the ends of the wire are outwardly bent in order to form the journals 6 engaging the eyelets 4 by reason of the elasticity of the wire. The two branches of the wire possess the straight portions 7 having slidable thereon a sliding member *c* for spacing the said branches apart.

When the said sliding member is disposed at the upper part of the foot it prevents the journals from approaching each other and thus becoming disengaged from the eyelets 4. On the contrary, if the sliding member is slid down to the bottom of the portions 7, the said journals may now be moved towards each other whereby they are disengaged from the eyelets 4, thus detaching the foot from the frame work.

The photograph miniature or like object may then be disposed in the frame 1 as well as a rigid back plate *d* serving to receive the pressure of the foot *b* after this latter has been secured in position. It is understood that the use of the said plate is optional. In order to exert the required pressure, the upper part of the foot is preferably shaped as indicated in the drawings, and chiefly in Fig. 3, the two branches of the foot being laterally bent into the shape of a very obtuse-angled V, whose apex is forwardly situated and bears in an elastic

manner against the plate *d* when the journals 6 have been engaged in the eyelets 4. Moreover, the branches are bent at the place where they bear against the plate *d* in such manner as to form a contact base 8 having a certain height in order to maintain in a steady manner the direction of the foot with reference to the framework.

Consequently, in this constructional form, the special configuration of the elastic metal wire composing the foot will produce several effects at the same time; it produces the engagement of the journals 6 in the eyelets 4, it presses the photograph into its frame and also maintains the foot at the desired inclination with reference to the framework. The elastic pressure of the wire in the orifices of the sliding member also aids in maintaining the latter in the upper position.

Although the herein described construction is advantageous by reason of its great simplicity, it is of course understood that without departing from the principles of this invention, the shape and construction of the foot may be modified, for instance by forming the same in a greater number of parts, or the arrangement of the framework or the method of articulation may be varied, provided the foot may be readily disengaged from the frame work.

I claim:

1. An easel for holding photographs comprising a frame adapted to receive a photograph introduced from the back of the frame, a rigid back plate adapted to serve as a support for the said photograph, a foot pivoted to the back of the said frame and adapted to hold the frame and press against the said plate, eyelets placed at both sides of the frame, journals upon the foot adapted to rotate in the said eyelets and serve as the pivoting axis of the said foot, the said foot being engageable with said back plate at two points, one above and the other beneath the plane of its oscillation axis.

2. An easel for holding photographs com-

prising a frame adapted to receive a photograph introduced from the back of the frame, a rigid back plate adapted to serve as a support to the said photograph, a foot pivoted to the back of the said frame and adapted to hold the frame and press against the said back plate, eyelets at both sides of the frame, journals upon the foot adapted to pivot in the said eyelets and serve as the pivoting axis of the said foot, the foot being formed of a metallic wire shaped to form two straight branches secured to the said journals, a sliding member slidable upon the two branches, the two branches being resilient and having a tendency to approach each other and the sliding member being adapted to prevent the two branches from moving towards each other when placed near the oscillation axis of the foot.

3. An easel for holding photographs comprising a frame adapted to receive a photograph introduced from the back of the frame, a back plate fitting into said frame from the back and adapted to support a photograph in the frame, bearings at opposite sides of said frame, and a support including a base portion, resilient arms extending from said base portion and movable towards and away from each other, said arms extending above the plane of said journals and being then bent downwardly, the downturned portions being then bent to extend outwardly and upwardly for fitting into said journals and pivotally mounting the support in a plane intermediate the plane of the upper and lower ends of the downturned portions of said arms, and a slide movable longitudinally upon said arms for controlling movement of the arms towards and away from each other.

In testimony, that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have signed my name in presence of a subscribing witness.

CHARLES HENRI SCHUTZ.

Witness:

MAURICE ROUX.