

June 14, 1960

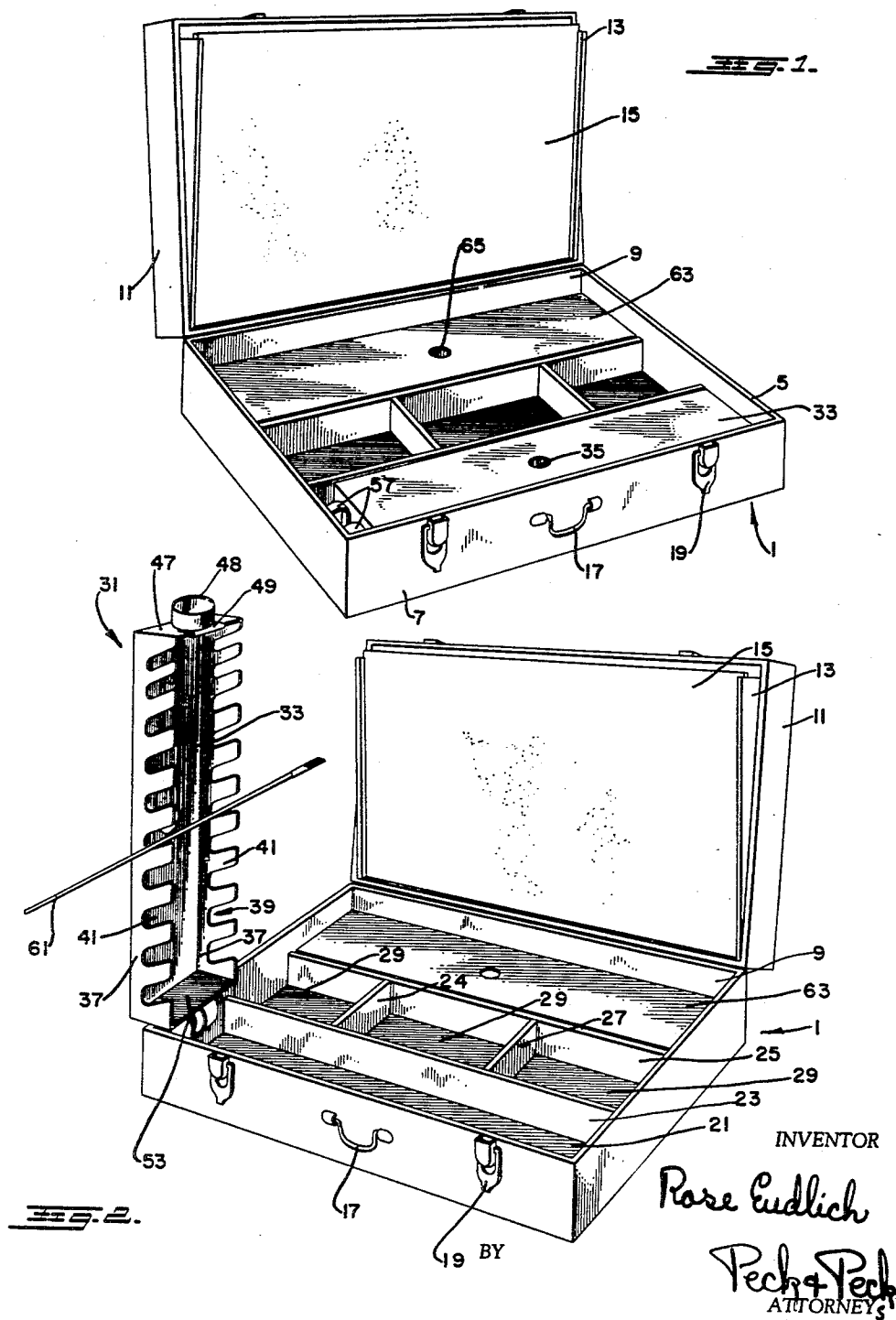
R. ENDLICH

2,940,200

COMBINATION KIT AND BRUSH RACK

Filed June 12, 1957

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FIG. 4.

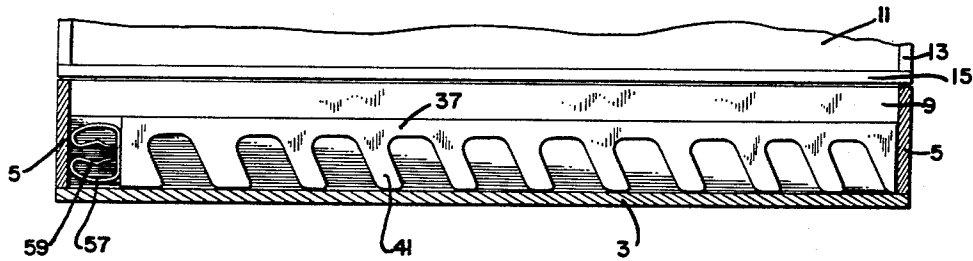


FIG. 5.

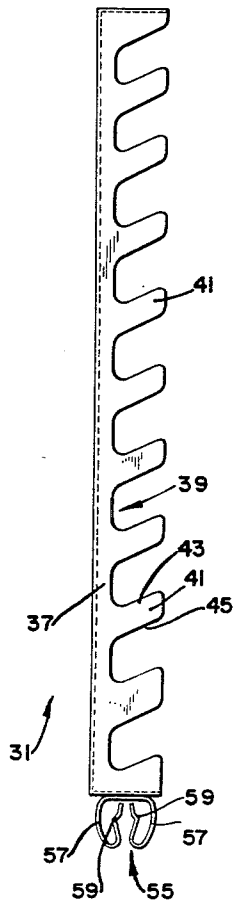
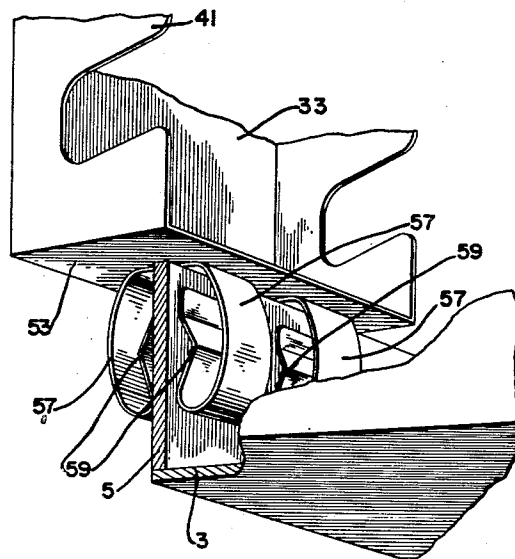


FIG. 3.

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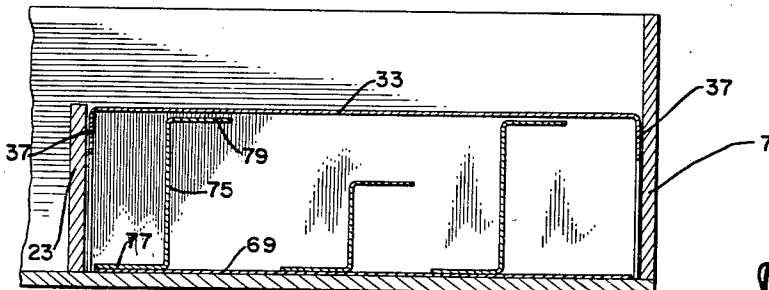
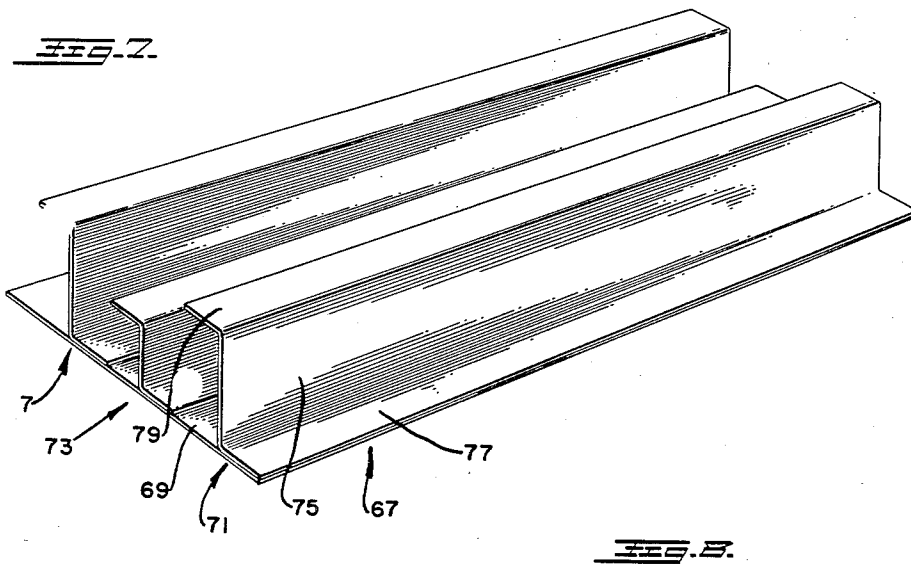
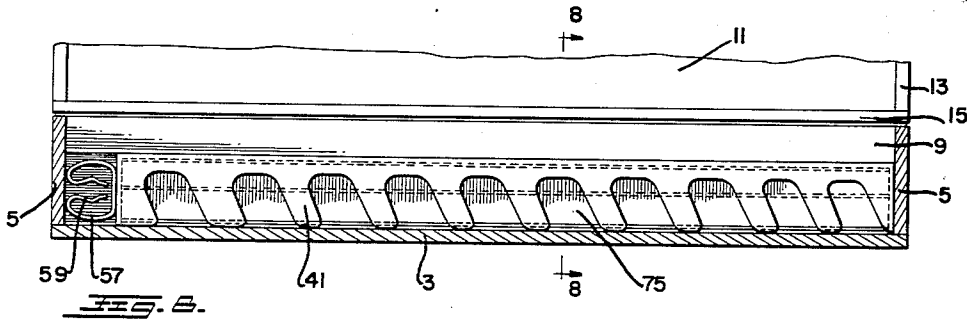
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3 Sheets-Sheet 3



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COMBINATION KIT AND BRUSH RACK

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1 Claim. (Cl. 41—4)

This invention relates broadly to artist's equipment and in its more specific aspects it relates to a combination kit and brush rack wherein the rack is combined with the kit in such a manner that it serves a dual function, it functions as a rack during the painting operation and when the painting operation is not in progress it functions as a cover for the brushes which are stored in the kit; and the nature and objects of the invention will be readily recognized and understood by those skilled in the arts to which it relates in the light of the following explanation and detailed description of the accompanying drawings illustrating what I at present believe to be preferred embodiments or mechanical expressions of my invention from among various other forms, arrangements, combinations and constructions, of which the invention is capable within the spirit and scope thereof.

It is conventional practice for artists to carry and use a plurality of different brushes while working, these brushes may be of different sizes, quality and the like and different brushes may be used for the different paint colors which are being used. In any event it is customary to have available several or many different brushes, and it has been my experience that a problem is constantly present during the painting operation as to where to put the brush or brushes which are not being used but may be required at any moment. Many artists merely hold the extra brushes in the hand not being used for painting but this is not desirable for many reasons. Others merely lay them on any available surface and then pick one of them up when it is desired to use it. This is also an unsatisfactory practice for many reasons. For instance, the brushes are placed in a disorderly manner and selection of the desired brush is not always an easy matter, and in many cases no suitable surface is available where the painting operation is to take place. The brushes in many instances are relatively expensive and somewhat fragile and placing them on and picking them from a surface in disorderly arrangement often is deleterious to the brushes reducing if not destroying their usefulness.

Artists customarily provide themselves with a small case or kit in which are carried brushes, paints and other equipment and materials which the artist requires in his work. Often the kit may be supported on a table or the like supporting structure adjacent the artist while he is at work. In this way the equipment and materials may be within reach but the extra brushes or those not momentarily being used, are in a disorderly array in a brush compartment of the conventional artist's kit.

I am aware that brush holders for artist's brushes are known in the prior art, however all of such holders which have come to my notice consist generally of jars or plates with apertured tops or holes therein which are adapted to receive and vertically support the brushes. With all such brush holders it is of course necessary to provide some support for them which is within reach of the artist and preferably at a convenient height. These prior art holders are not designed to be carried and stored in the usual artist's kit.

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There is clearly a need for a brush rack or holder which may be carried and stored in any more or less conventional artist's kit when not in use and when in use may be easily removed from the kit and mounted in operative position on the kit in accessible but out of the way position relative to the working artist.

I have evolved such a brush holder for artists which overcomes all of the objectionable features which are inherent in prior methods of holding brushes when not in use. My invention provides means for holding brushes in an orderly fashion for ease of selection by the user and to eliminate possible injury to the brushes. The brush holder which I have devised may be stored in the kit when not in use and when in such stored position within the kit it has a positive and highly advantageous function to perform. It is so constructed relative to the compartmentized kit that it serves as a cover and guard for the brushes stored in the kit and maintains them in proper position within the box preventing them from moving around inside the kit as it is carried about.

The brush holder may be easily removed from the kit when it is desired to use it and means are provided for mounting it in upright position on the kit where it is accessible to the artist yet out of his way when painting. The mounting means and the operation of mounting are simple and require no skill whatsoever.

I have also provided a member which is removably mounted within the kit and which functions in a simple and efficient manner to maintain the brushes within the desired compartment of the kit even when the kit is being carried and moved about. This will be of advantage to every user of kits of this general character for it maintains the kit in a neat condition, protects the stored brushes and reduces the noise from brushes rattling about in the kit.

I have designed the brush holder of this invention so that it may be economically produced and to have lasting qualities under normal use conditions.

With the foregoing general objects, features and results in view, as well as certain others which will be apparent from the following explanation, the invention consists in certain novel features in design, construction, mounting and combination of elements, as will be more fully and particularly referred to and specified hereinafter.

Referring to the accompanying drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an artist's kit with the brush holder in stored brush controlling position therein.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the kit and the brush holder in operative position mounted thereon.

Fig. 3 is an end elevated view of the brush holder.

Fig. 4 is a vertical section through the kit (parts thereof being broken away) illustrating the brush holder in stored brush controlling position therein.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary view illustrating the means for mounting the brush holder in operative position on the kit.

Fig. 6 is a sectional view through the kit illustrating the brush rack and the stored brush guard in nested position within the kit.

Fig. 7 is a view in perspective of the stored brush guard removed from the kit.

Fig. 8 is a view taken on the line 8—8 of Fig. 6.

In the accompanying drawings I have used the numeral 1 to designate the artist's kit which may be of any appropriate dimensions and made of any suitable material. The kit comprises a bottom 3, end walls 5, a front wall 7 and a rear wall 9. A cover 11 having inwardly directed wings or flanges 13 is hinged associated with the rear wall 9. A canvas or the like 15 may be slidably mounted in slots in the flanges 13. A handle 17 may be pivotally fixed on front wall 7 and any suitable fastening

means 19 may be provided for fastening the cover in closed position.

It is usual practice to divide the interior of the kit into several compartments for separately carrying the equipment and materials therein. As one example from among various compartment arrangements which may be used I have provided a front elongated compartment 21 which preferably extends the full width of the kit and may be conveniently used as a brush storage area or compartment. The compartment 21 is separated from the remainder of the interior space of the kit by a partition 23 and I may provide a further partition 25 spaced rearwardly from and extending parallel to said partition 23 and transverse partitions 27 extending between and fixed to partitions 23 and 25 to divide the central area of the space into three compartments 29. A further elongated compartment is provided between partition 25 and rear wall 9 of the kit. It will be observed that all of the partitions are of reduced height relative to the walls of the kit, the conventional artist's kits are constructed in this manner. It is to be distinctly understood that my invention may be incorporated with kits having other compartment arrangements and that such combination will fall within the spirit and scope of this invention.

The brush holder or rack and brush guard comprises a rectangular generally box-like structure which I have designated in its entirety by the numeral 31. The brush holder is of rigid integral construction and may be made of any light weight material such as plastic, light weight metal or the like. The brush holder 31 is formed to provide what I shall term a "supporting back" 33 having a circular finger hole 35 formed centrally therein. Extending from each longitudinal edge of the supporting back 33 is a longitudinal side wall 37, each wall 37 being provided with a plurality of vertically spaced notches 39, each notch in each side being in alignment with the complementary notch in the other side wall. The notches 39 provide between them a plurality of vertically spaced brush supporting fingers 41. Consideration of the drawings and particularly Fig. 3 thereof discloses that the notches 39 are cut or otherwise formed in the longitudinally extending side walls at an angle to the supporting back to thereby cause the top supporting surface 43 of each finger 41 to extend rearwardly and downwardly and the under surface or edge 45 of each finger 41 to also extend rearwardly and downwardly for a purpose to be hereinafter described. It will now be appreciated that I have provided a series of fingers along each edge of the holder to thereby provide a plurality of pairs of transversely spaced brush supporting fingers for receiving and supporting thereon a brush which, in supported position, rests on and extends between a pair of fingers.

The brush holder includes a top transverse wall 47 and at the opposite or bottom end of the brush holder 31 I provide a transverse wall 53 and on the exterior of said transverse bottom end wall 53 I fix by any suitable means a pair of spaced clamping elements designated generally by the numeral 55, each such element may comprise a length of spring metal strap bent to provide extended spaced apart spring arms 57 each of which is bent back upon itself to form spring clamping fingers 59 which, as will be explained, are adapted to clamp a supporting member therebetween.

In use the compartment 21 may contain a plurality of paint brushes stored therein and the other compartments of the kit may contain various other items of equipment which the artist will need to use in a painting operation. When the various materials are stored in the kit the brush holder or rack 31 is positioned within the brush compartment 21 with the supporting back 33 in uppermost position as clearly illustrated in Fig. 1 of the drawings. It will be recognized that the width of the brush holder is just slightly less than the width of the compartment and the length of the brush holder from end wall 47 to and including the clamping members 55 is substantially the same as the length of the compartment. Fig. 4 of the

drawings illustrates the brush holder in brush guarding position within the compartment and shows that it will be received therein with a relatively close fit and will be removably maintained therein by the clamping members 55 which are in engagement with an end wall 5. The brush holder in its brush guarding position will rest on the fingers 41 and end walls 47 and 53 and will keep any brushes from being moved from the compartment when the kit is carried and moved about.

When the artist desires to commence the painting operation and have his brushes and other equipment and materials readily available to him he merely inserts his finger in the hole 35 in brush holder 31 and lifts the holder from its stored and brush holding position within the compartment. He then disposes the holder in an erect position substantially perpendicular with respect to the bottom of the kit with the clamping members 55 on the lower end of the holder. With the holder in this position it is mounted in operative brush holding position merely by pushing it downwardly over an end wall 5 of the kit with the wall projected between the fingers 59 of the pair of clamps 55. It will now be appreciated that the brush holding fingers 41 are directed inwardly over the box and that any number of brushes 61 may be supported in the notches 39 on the fingers in readily accessible position to the working artist. The brush holder 31 may, of course, be mounted on either end wall 51, whichever is found to be more convenient for the individual artist. It will be appreciated that because of the shape of the notches 39 the brushes may be inserted and removed with facility and when supported in a notch on the sloping supporting surface of a finger the brushes cannot roll from their supported positions. When the brush holder is in operative erect position as illustrated in Fig. 2 of the drawings I may removably mount one or two turpentine or the like cups 48 on end wall 47 by means of a clamp 49 which is fixed to the bottom of the cups.

A cover 63 having a finger opening 65 therein may also be removably positioned in the elongated rear compartment of the kit in order to keep the materials stored therein from moving therefrom when the kit is carried about.

In Figures 6, 7 and 8 of the drawings I have illustrated a form of storage rack for protecting the brushes when they are stored in the brush compartment of the kit and for keeping them from moving out of the compartment when the kit is carried and moved about.

The storage rack is designated in its entirety by the numeral 67 and may be formed of plastic, light metal or any other suitable material. The storage rack is of substantially the same length as the length of the rack 31 so that it will fit or nest therein in a manner to be described, and it will be understood that the storage rack is of substantially the same width as that of the rack 31. The storage rack comprises a flat base 69 to which are fixed a pair of upstanding generally Z shaped divider members 71 which are spaced apart and an intermediate divider member 73 which is preferably of less height than the two end divider members 71. Each divider member may consist of a web 75, a lower flange 77 which is fixed to the base and an upper flange 79. As will be apparent from consideration of the drawings each of the upper flanges extend in the same direction and each of the lower flanges extend in the same direction. Each of the upper flanges form in effect a cover or partial closure for the area between adjacent webs as is clearly shown in Fig. 8 of the drawings. It is to be understood that the lower flanges may be eliminated if the storage rack is made, for instance, of extruded plastic or the like.

When brushes are to be stored in the compartment 21 of the kit and are positioned therein the storage rack is first placed in the compartment as is clearly illustrated in Fig. 8 of the drawings. With the rack in such position brushes are placed in the rack in the areas be-

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tween the webs of the divider members whereupon the brush holder or rack 31 is placed in position thereover as illustrated in Fig. 6 of the drawings. Thus, the back of the brush holder or rack functions as the cover for the area between the top flanges and since the storage rack is preferably disposed in the kit with the upper flanges 79 directed toward the front wall of the kit so that when it is carried the upper flanges will be directed upwardly to thereby prevent the brushes from falling from the areas defined by the webs of the dividers when the kit is being carried about. It is to be also understood that the storage rack may be easily removed from the compartment of the kit merely by grasping the two end dividers which are of greater height than the central divider member.

It will now be appreciated that I have devised a combination kit and brush rack which provides ideal storage conditions for brushes when not in use and a brush holder or rack which disposes brushes in readily accessible position to the working artist.

I claim:

Equipment for artists including, in combination, an artist's kit having at least one compartment therein

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adapted for storage of equipment and provided with vertical end wall forming a part thereof, and a brush holder removably received in said compartment to maintain stored equipment therein, said brush holder being of less length than the compartment, spring means on one end of said brush holder in engagement with an end wall of the compartment the other end of said brush holder being in engagement with the other end wall of the compartment, and said brush holder when in operative brush supporting position being removably mounted on one of said vertical end walls by said spring means.

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