Nov. 25, 1958 P. L. PAULSEN ET AL 2,861,386

DRAFTING BOARD WITH FLEXIBLE DISPLACEABLE COVER

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Fig. 1.

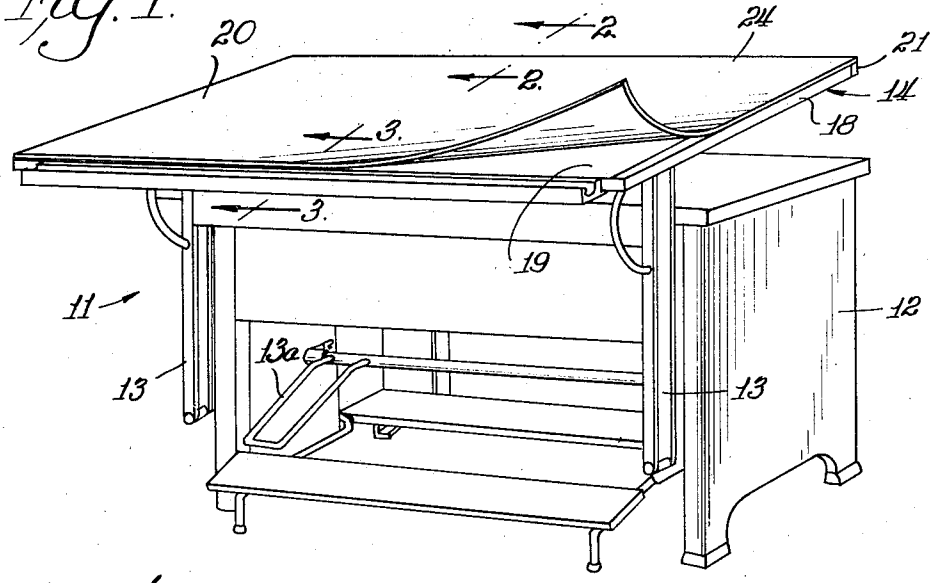


Fig. 2.

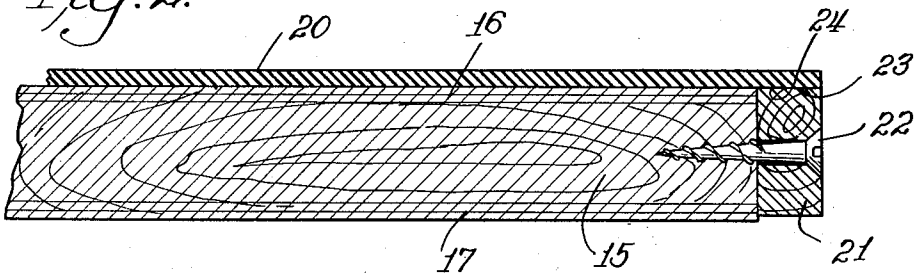
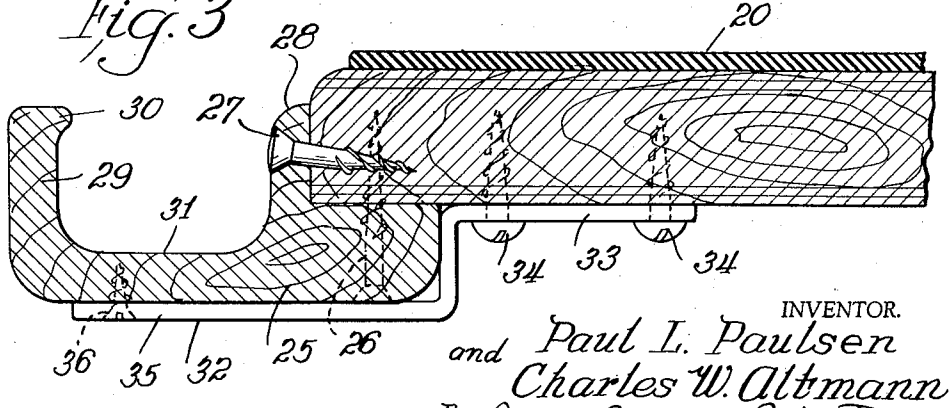


Fig. 3



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DRAFTING BOARD WITH FLEXIBLE DISPLACEABLE COVER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 45—131)

This invention relates to drafting board improvement and aims to provide a more attractive and more efficient board for the making of drawings and the like by industrial draftsmen, engineers, or other technical personnel.

Heretofore it has been customary for a draftsman to lay the drawing paper directly on the drafting board of natural wood color, but more recently it has been found that better drawings may be made more quickly if the drawing paper be superimposed on a surface such as linoleum, but an objection to covering the board with linoleum is that if it is attached by mechanical means such as staples it is apt to wringle or buckle while if cemented by adhesive to the board warping of the board is likely to occur and the surface of the board may be permanently marred by the adhesive, it being common practice to roughen the board surface by coarse sand paper to improve the bond. It is moreover, difficult if not impossible to spread the adhesive continuously, thereby resulting in spotty gluing which aggravates buckling of the linoleum and warping of the board. Mechanical attachments such as staples, tacks, etc. also make permanent marks on the otherwise smooth surface of the board which are objectionable. If adhesive is used it must be thoroughly removed from the board before the linoleum can be replaced.

An important aspect of the present invention is the provision of means for removably attaching the linoleum to the board in such a manner that the board proper is separate from such attaching means so as not to be subject to warping or disfigurement while at the same time the linoleum sheet is maintained square with the board without wrinkling or buckling, the linoleum being carried by the fastening means in an extended position along the rear edge of the board.

It has been furthermore true of drawing boards in the past that the natural wood coloring of the board has placed eyestrain on the draftsman and it is an additional object of the present invention to provide the drafting board with a tinted coloring that is easy and pleasant on the eyes of the draftsman and thereby avoids glare and eye fatigue while contributing to esthetic comfort, with the desirable result of enhancing the speed and efficiency of the draftsman's work. This is true not only of the face of the board but also of the reverse side thereof, since the boards are frequently used in a vertical position and in groups where the reverse side is visible to the adjacent draftsman. By "tinted coloring" it is here to be understood to mean so-called pastel shades particularly such as pale green, for example, which is known to be especially restful to the eyes while at the same time enhancing the esthetic effect of the appearance of the drafting board.

The foregoing, and other objects and advantages, will be apparent from the following description, taken together with the accompanying drawing, showing an illustrative embodiment of the invention, and in which drawings—

Figure 1 is a general perspective view of a drafting board and base therefor with the present invention associated therewith;

Figure 2 is an enlarged fragmentary section taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 3 is a similar section taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Referring in detail to the illustrative construction shown in the drawing, the drafting table used for purposes of illustration of an application of the present invention thereto is in general given the numeral **11** and as shown in Froelich Patent No. 2,356,924 of August 29, 1944 for "Adjustable Stand for Draftsman or the Like" incorporates a base **12** in the form of a table or desk and a strut mechanism **13** mounted thereon for vertical movement and on which is rotatively supported a drafting board **14**. The drafting board here illustrated at **14**, as best seen in Fig. 2, is made of a core **15** and laminated upper and lower plies **16** and **17** respectively, the board being edged on each side by a steel channel cleat **18** as shown in De Lisle Patent No. 2,244,391 of June 3, 1941, to reinforce the board and enhance resistance to warpage. The board could be of solid wood. A brake release foot lever **13***a* controls brake mechanism (not shown) for holding the strut device **13—13** in selective positions.

In accordance with the present invention, for superposition upon the upper surface **19** of the drafting board **14** there is here shown a flexible sheet **20** of linoleum or the like for covering the board to provide a desirable working surface for the draftsman's tools and pencils, the linoleum providing a surface not too hard for this purpose while being uniformly smooth.

Following the present invention, the linoleum sheet **20** is shown attached to a separable carrier or strip **21** that is detachably mounted on the rear edge of the drawing board **14** as by screws **22** spaced along the rear edge of the board. Linoleum sheet **20** may be secured to the carrier strip **21** in any suitable manner, preferably by an adhesive such as glue or cement, as at **23** along the upper edge of the carrier strip **21** and on the extreme rear underface margin **24** of the linoleum. The linoleum sheet is thus readily replaceable by the user, should it become excessively worn or for other reasons unsuitable for further use, by first detaching the carrier **21** from the board after removing the screws **22** and then securing a new linoleum sheet to the carrier strip.

The strip **21** is advantageously say 7/16 of an inch wide and extends the length of the board, overlapping the ends of cleats **18**. The steel cleats **18** desirably terminate short of the carrier strip **21**, as best seen in Fig. 1, so as to avoid interference with the latter.

So constructed and arranged, the linoleum sheet **20** may be laid over the upper surface **19** of the drawing board to lie there smoothly and evenly to provide a working drawing surface for the draftsman.

Further in accordance with the present invention, the upper surface **19** of the drawing board, together with, if desired, other suitable parts of the board and table **12**, including the underface of the board, are advantageously colored a pastel color, such as light green, which is easy on the eyes. If the draftsman prefers to work directly on the surface of the board he may readily remove the linoleum sheet entirely by removing the screws **22**, the linoleum sheet coming off with the carrier strip **21** with which it remains associated ready for easy replacement on the board. When the linoleum sheet is so removed, if desired, the restful, eye-easing, colored surface of the drawing board is exposed.

At its forward margin the drawing board **14** is shown provided with a pencil trough **25**, here illustrated as of wood, secured by screws **26** that pass upwardly from the

bottom surface of the trough into the drawing board, and screws **27** that pass transversely from the inner wall **28** of the trough into the board. The forward wall **29** of the trough is shown with an inwardly overhanging lip or shoulder **30** that restrains pencils and the like placed in the interior **31** of the trough from rolling out therefrom when the drawing board **14** is raised, say, to a vertical position on the strut **13** as described in the Froelich patent above referred to. Pencil trough **25** may be further supported by metal bracket **32** which has an upwardly offset plate portion **33** through which screws **34** pass into the board and a downwardly offset portion **35** that underlies the trough **25** and through which a screw **36** passes into the board. There may be two or more of the brackets **32** spaced longitudinally along the front edge of the board **14**. The linoleum sheet **20** when superposed on the board terminates short of the pencil trough.

It is to be understood that the term "linoleum" is intended to include other flexible materials such as vinyl compositions or the like.

Such changes may be made as fall within the scope of the appended claim without departing from the invention.

What is here claimed is:

In a drafting board with displaceable cover, the combination with a rigid board of wood material, of a relatively narrow rigid carrier strip detachably secured to the rear edge of said board and extending the full length of said edge, screw means passing directly through the carrier strip into the edge of the board for removably retaining the carrier strip secured to the board, whereby said carrier strip is extraneous of the board, and a flexible sheet of linoleum glued to said carrier strip throughout its length but otherwise unsecured to said board, whereby said flexible sheet may be draped over approximately the entire area of the board to lie snugly on the upper surface thereto to provide a working surface thereon or may be partially or wholly displaced from said surface to expose the said surface for alternative working use, said sheet terminating slightly short of the forward edge of the board and having a free flexible margin thereat.

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