No. 851,671. PATENTED APR. 23. 1907.

J. B. TIMBERLAKE.

DISPLAY EASEL.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 28, 1905.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

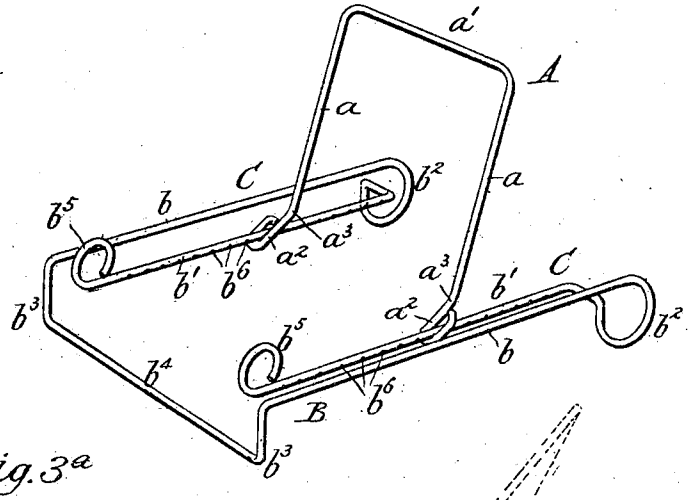


Fig. 3a

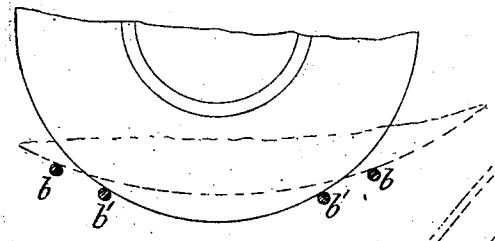
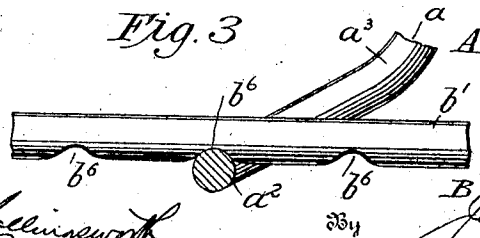


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3



Witnesses

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No. 851,571. PATENTED APR. 23, 1907.

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DISPLAY EASEL.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 4.

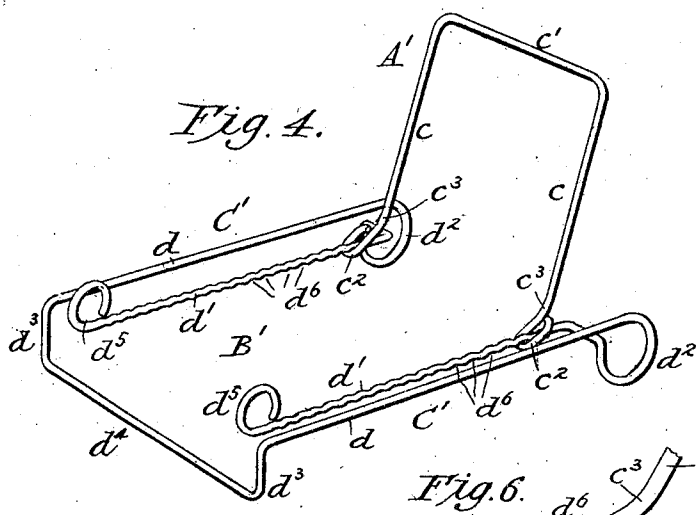


Fig. 6.

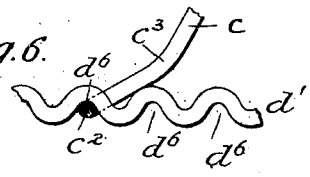


Fig. 5.

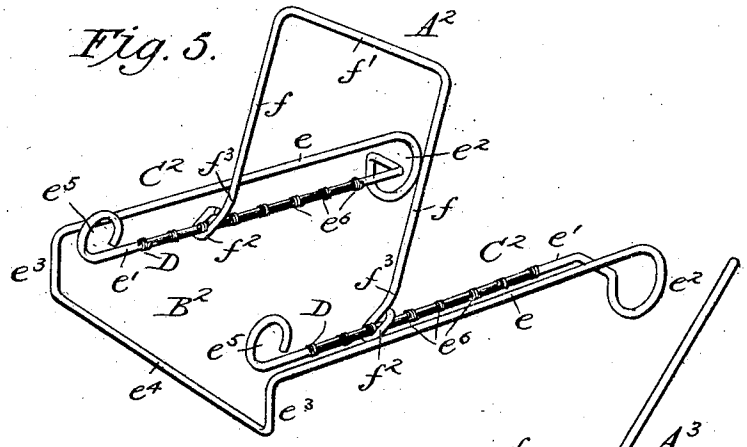


Fig. 7.

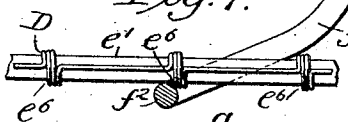


Fig. 8.

Witnesses

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DISPLAY-EASEL.

No. 851,571. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented April 23, 1907.

Application filed February 28, 1905. Serial No. 247,711.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN B. TIMBERLAKE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Jackson, in the county of Jackson and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Display-Easels, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to devices of the sort generally referred to as "display easels", they being stands or supports adapted to hold articles of any of various styles, and largely used for exhibition purposes.

One of the purposes of the invention is to provide a stand or easel of this class which shall comprise parts that are adjustable in relation to each other, and which at the same time shall automatically lock, positively, the movable parts after they have been put in some desirable position of adjustment.

Another of the objects is to provide an article of this sort which shall be tasty in appearance and of little cost in manufacture.

The several purposes aimed at and the method of making and using articles embodying my improvement will be readily understood from the drawings and the description given below.

Figure 1 is a perspective of an easel or holder of one form embodying my improvement. Fig. 2 is a side view of the same. Fig. 3 is a view of two of the parts interlocked and shown on a large scale. Fig. 3^a is a cross section on the line x, x, Fig. 2. Figs. 4 and 5 are perspectives of modified forms. Fig. 6 shows a part of the easel in Fig. 4 on a larger scale. Fig. 7 is a side view of a part of Fig. 5 on a larger scale. Fig. 8 is a side view showing another modification.

The article in either of the several forms shown consists of two principal elements, one of which may be considered as a base part, and the other may be regarded as an upright part adapted to engage with and support the back of a dish or other article. These elements are adjustable in relation to each other, the upright being adapted to be placed in either of several positions forward or backward relatively on the base element. It has been heretofore proposed to make easels or display stands having elements of this sort, broadly considered. But I have found that serious trouble is frequently incident to holders or stands of this sort, there being no positive lock provided to hold the upright part in the selected position, the consequence being that there is sometimes breakage and always a liability for breakage of dishes or fragile articles resting against the upright and standing on the base, these articles in many instances being of considerable value. This serious difficulty I have succeeded in overcoming by improvements of the character herein presented.

Referring to Figs. 1, 2, and 3 the letter A indicates one of the elements of the easel and the letter B the other. The base part or element B is preferably formed of a single piece of wire so shaped as to provide a side part C at each side of the easel, this side part having two wire sections or bars b, b'. At the rear end of this side part C there is a table engaging rest or foot b^2, preferably provided by forming a loop in that part of the wire which connects the sections or bars b, b'. At the front of the easel the side parts are connected by table rests or foot rests b^3, these in Figs. 1 and 2 being shown as provided by bending down the wire extending forward from the side sections b. The front ends of the side parts C are connected by a cross arm or bar b^4 which may be carried over from side to side on a horizontal line at the bottom of the down bent parts b^3, thereby giving an elongated, steadying and bracing rest on the table. The sections or bars b' of the side parts are preferably somewhat inside of and somewhat below the sections or bars b, and at their front ends are so shaped as to provide stops or rests for the front edge of the dish or article which is held on the easel, which shaping may consist in imparting to the ends an upward bend or loop as shown at b^5. By having the side parts C of the easel made thus with a higher and outer support b, b for dish edges, and an inner or lower support b', b' I can furnish an easel which has great range with respect to the sizes of the articles that can be supported, one of small diameter will have its edges resting upon the inner support b', b', while one of a larger diameter can rest upon the outer and higher bars or sections b, b, and in each case the dish will be supported at points near the bottom part of its edge which is desirable. The back element or upright A of the holder is formed with the vertical legs a connected together at their upper ends in any suitable manner, as by a cross section a' of wire; and at their lower ends they are formed with loops or eyes a^2 which engage with the wire sections or

bars b' of the base element. At a^3 bends are formed between the eyes a^2 and the upper parts of the legs a, these bends throwing the planes of the eyes a^2 at an angle to the plane of the upper part of the upright, whereby the locking of the element A in position on the base B is partially effected. But I have found that this cannot be depended upon for firmly holding the parts against slippage. To insure a positive lock I, in constructions such as shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, form recesses in the wire sections or bars b', as shown at b^6. These may be made in either of several ways; but preferably, prior to the bending of the wires into form, indentations are made in dies of proper character. But this may be accomplished after the base parts have been put into their final shape. These are of such depth and shape that when the eyes a^2 fit into them the upright A is locked under all ordinary circumstances against movement, particularly locked against movement rearward, and a dish or other fragile article resting against it is secured against slippage or breakage.

In Figs. 4 and 6 I have illustrated a modification of the invention; in this case the positive locking of the upright part in its positions of adjustment being attained by forming crimps or bends in the horizontal wire section or bar d' of the base element, these crimps or bends providing recesses d^6 on the under side with the edges of which the eyes or loops c^2 of the upright can positively engage in such way as to overcome the possibility of slipping. In other respects the parts of the easel or holder in Figs. 4 and 6 are the same as those above described, the base element B′ having side parts C′, each comprising a wire section or bar d and the aforesaid locking section d' with the foot d^2 at the rear, the down turned parts d^3 at the front connected by the cross part d^4, and the bars d' terminating in stop loops d^5. The parts of the upright indicated respectively by c, c', c^2 are similar to the corresponding parts above described in the construction in Fig. 1.

In the modification shown in Figs. 5 and 7 the same general ends are attained; in this case the locking of the upright being effected by coiling or twisting a supplemental or second wire D around or with the horizontally disposed dish supporting wire or bar e'. As shown the coils or twists are so formed as to provide stop-like devices at e^6 with which the eyes of the upright positively engage, and which prevent the latter from slipping backward under the weight of the dish or other article which bears backward against the upright. Not only is there a positive lock for the upright provided in this case, but the wires can be coiled or twisted in such way as to give a highly ornamental and tasty appearance to the easel. In other respects the stand or easel shown in Figs. 5 and 7 is the same as that in Fig. 1, the parts of the base element B^2 indicated by C^2, e, e', e^2, e^3, e^4, e^5, being similar to corresponding parts in the other construction; and similarly with respect to the upright element A^2 its parts f, f', f^2, f^3 are the same as those in the device first described.

In Fig. 8 a stand essentially similar to that in Figs. 5 and 7 is shown, the difference being that here the doubling of the wires is extended throughout the article along the parts g', g^2, g, g^3, g^5, in order to give it a uniform appearance throughout, but the twists or bends of the wires being so arranged that the positive lock of the upright can be effected at whatever points are desired in the same manner as accomplished in the other constructions.

While I have above more particularly referred to the use of the stand or easel in connection with dishes, it is to be understood that I do not limit it to any particular use or class of articles, as it can be employed for supporting and displaying others than those mentioned as books, cards, pictures, &c.

It will be seen that the eyes at the lower ends of the legs of the back element A are larger than the side bars they encircle so that they will slide freely over the side bars in either direction when the part A is tilted slightly forward; but when the back is inclined rearward the eyes bind upon the side bars, engaging with the opposite sides thereof, and coacting with the notches or other expedients employed to lock the back, upward-extending element, the weight of the article displayed, as it rests against the back, operating to hold the back in the position last referred to. The bearing point of an eye that engages with the under side of a side bar is in advance of the bearing point that engages with the upper side thereof (instead of being opposite each other, as would be the case did the eye fit the bar snugly) with the result that the upright element is held securely and firmly, though by a loose connection.

What I claim is:—

1. In a display easel, the combination of an upright supporting element bodily adjustable forward and back and also arranged to be slightly tilted forward and back, and provided at its lower portions with eyes or loops, and a base element having side bars extending through the said eyes or loops of the upright element, the said bars being smaller than the eyes, whereby when the upright element is tilted forward it is loose upon the base and free to be moved forward and back relative thereto, the side bars of the base element being provided with stops with which the loops of the upright element are adapted to engage when the latter is tilted backward but over which they freely slide when it is tilted forward, whereby the upright element

may be locked when in position for use, substantially as set forth.

2. In a display easel, the combination of elements A and B, the base element B having parallel side parts C, C, connected by a depressed cross bar b^4 at the front ends, providing an elongated support, and the upright element A being formed with terminal loops at the bottom which have sliding engagement with the parallel side parts of the base, and the base having at the front stops or holders for the lower edges of the dishes or articles, substantially as set forth.

3. In a display easel, in combination a base element having parallel side parts as C, C, provided with table rests or feet at one end and with a depressed cross connecting table engaging bar b^4 at the other end, and with upwardly extending stops or supports for the lower edges of the dishes, and an upright element having legs or approximately vertical bars at the sides, a connecting bar at the top, and sliding connections at the bottom fitted to the base part, substantially as set forth.

4. In a display easel, the combination of a base element and an upright element adjustable forward and back on the base element, the base element having on each side two longitudinally arranged bars or sections as at b, b', one relatively nearer the central longitudinal plane of the easel than the other, substantially as set forth.

5. In a display easel, the combination of a base element and upright element, adjustable bodily longitudinally of the base element, the base element being formed with the two longitudinal sections or bars b, b' on each side of the base, the side parts of the base having feet or table rests at the front and rear, and the upright element being fitted to and sliding upon the bars b' of the side parts, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOHN B. TIMBERLAKE.

Witnesses:

VERNE W. BADGLEY,

GRACE A. LAVERTY.