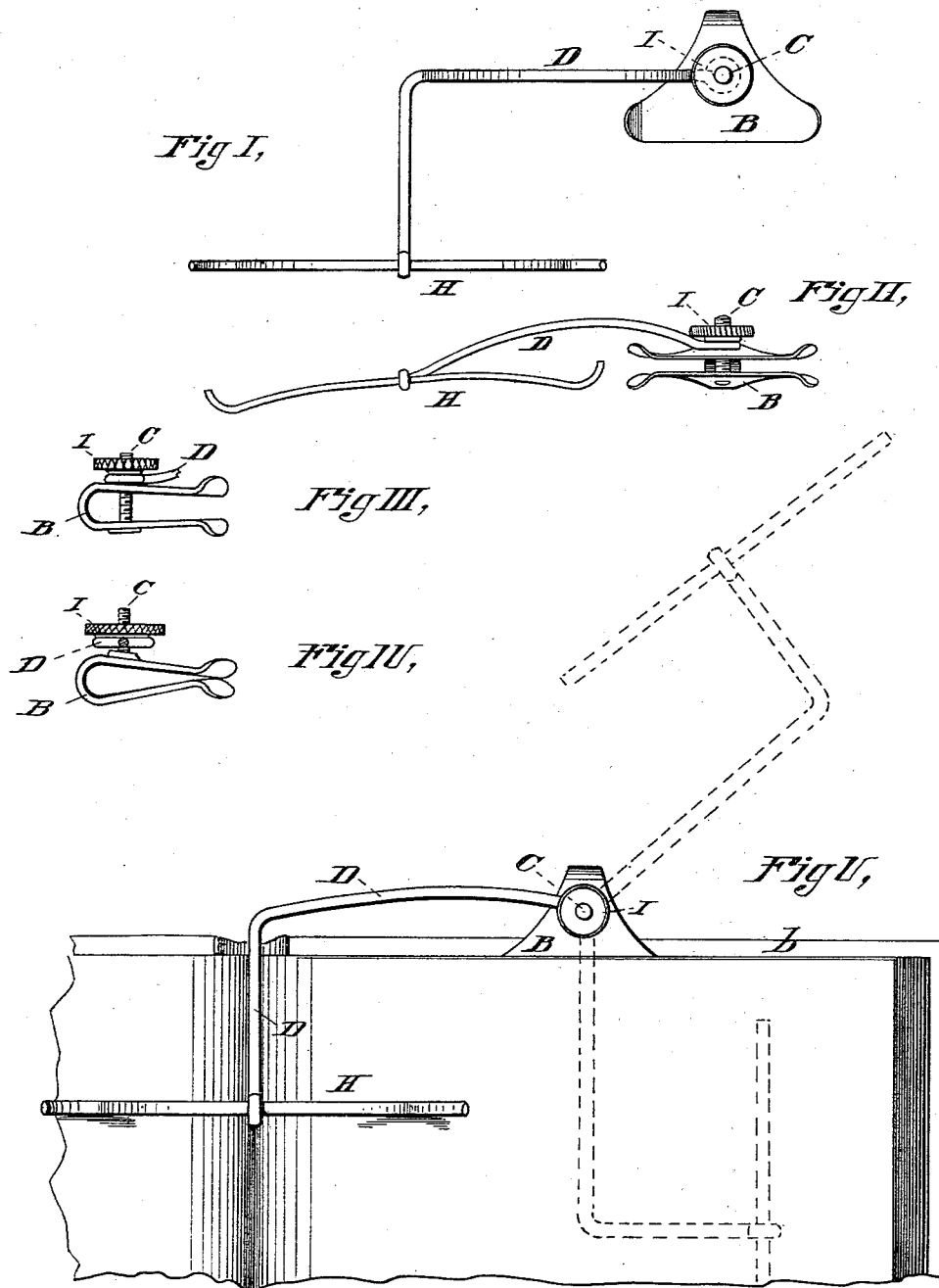


(No Model.)

C. L. HIGGINS.
BOOK LEAF HOLDER.

No. 457,764.

Patented Aug. 11, 1891.



Witnesses,
Penn Tyler,
Lyman H. Perkins.

Inventor,
Charles L. Higgins
by his Attorney
R. F. Hyde

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES L. HIGGINS, OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO WILLIAM B. CARTER, OF SAME PLACE.

BOOK-LEAF HOLDER.

forming part of Letters Patent No. 457,764, dated August 11, 1891.

Application filed April 2, 1891. Serial No. 387,343. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES L. HIGGINS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Springfield, county of Hampden, and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Book-Leaf Holder, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to mechanism adapted to be combined with the back of a book, to hold the book distended with its leaves flat together when the book is open; and the invention consists in the combination and construction, as hereinafter described, and more particularly pointed out in the claim.

My invention is fully illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure I is a plan view of my device detached. Fig. II is a side view of my device detached. Fig. III is an end view of the clamp. Fig. IV is an end view of a modification of the same, and Fig. V is a plan view of the device combined with a book and in operation.

In the drawings, B is a clamp adapted to pass over one back of a book to inclose said back between the jaws thereof. The clamp B is preferably made a spring-clamp, so as to maintain its position when sprung over the back of a book, or release itself upon the unscrewing of the clamp nut or screw, as shown more particularly in the detail views, Figs. III and IV. Projecting above the upper jaw of the clamp B and secured to the clamp is a screw-stem C, and seated upon the clamp and hinged upon the screw C is a spring-arm D, having one end formed into an eye to inclose the screw-stem, as shown in dotted lines, Fig. I. The arm D is bent approximately at right angles, and its free end is provided with a cross-piece H, forming in effect two fingers for bearing against the two leaves of an open book. A thumb-nut I passes over the screw C and incloses the eye of the arm D between it and the upper surface of the clamp.

As shown in Fig. II, the curve of the spring-arm D, when the device is detached, brings the fingers below the plane of its hinge, so that its spring is exerted upon the surface on which the fingers bear above said plane, which surface would be the leaves of an open book, and when the arm D is sprung

to bring the part H against the leaves of a book, as seen in Fig. V, the clamp B is the fulcrum from which the spring bears.

In operation the clamp part of the device is secured to the top of one of the backs of the book, and the book being opened the arm D is swung from a position clear of the book, as indicated in dotted lines, Fig. V, to have the finger-piece H sprung over the leaves. The edges of the clamp-jaws are beveled to facilitate their adjustment to the book-back and to obviate the danger of injuring the back in placing the clamp, and the finger-piece H is also adapted by its configuration, as shown, to pass over the leaves without catching against them. The hasp movement of the arm D enables it to be quickly swung clear of the book when it is desired to turn a leaf, and from the flat shape of the arm and finger-piece in one plane they may be swung, as indicated in dotted lines, Fig. V, to lie between the fly-leaf and the back of the book, to thus enable the book to be closed and restored to its place on the shelf or in the library, having the device attached and ready for future use.

In practice the arm and finger-piece are formed of spring-wire, and the finger-piece is made of wire small enough to rest between the lines of print or the bars of music without obstructing the view.

Now having described my invention, what I claim is—

The within-described improved book-leaf holder, consisting of a clamp B, adapted to pass over and inclose between its jaws one of the covers of a book, a screw-stem C, extending transversely to the clamp and secured thereto, an angular spring-arm D, hinged at one end to the screw-stem C, provided upon its free end with a finger-piece H for bearing upon the leaves and having its spring acting in the direction to normally bear the finger-piece H below the plane of its hinge, and a nut I for holding the arm D to a bearing upon the clamp, all combined and operating as and for the purpose set forth.

CHARLES L. HIGGINS.

Witnesses:

R. F. HYDE,
PENN TYLER.