

I. WITWER.
Book-Support

No. 197,581.

Patented Nov. 27, 1877.

Fig. 1

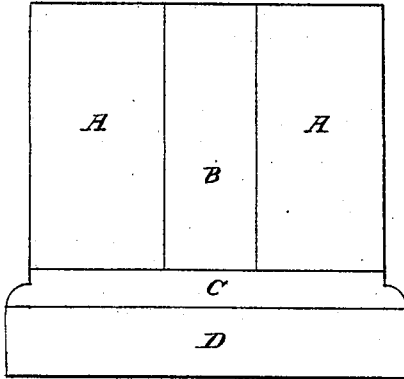


Fig. 2.

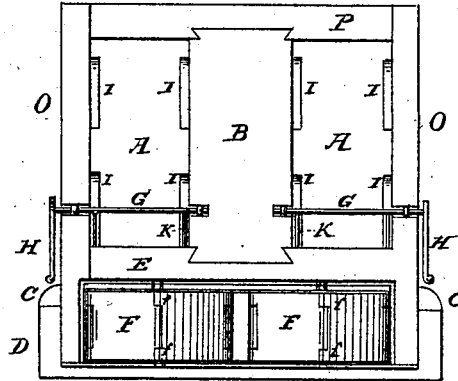


Fig. 3

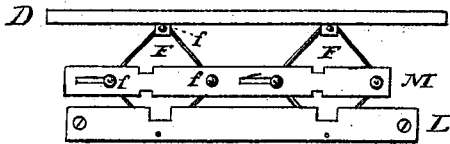


Fig. 4

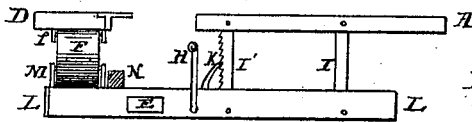
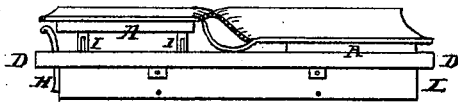


Fig. 5

Witnesses

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IMPROVEMENT IN BOOK-SUPPORTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **197,581**, dated November 27, 1877; application filed May 28, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ISAAC WITWER, of New Holland, in the county of Lancaster and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain Improvements in an Adjustable Hand-Rest and Writing-Desk, of which the following is a specification:

The object of this invention is to supply an adjustable hand-rest, to facilitate writing on the lower marginal lines of thick blank-books, such as are used in offices of record and the like, and at the same time make the top surface of the leaves of the open book parallel by elevating one side or the other of the book, in the manner hereinafter more fully set forth.

The accompanying drawings, with the letters of reference marked thereon and a brief explanation, will enable those skilled in the art to make and use my invention.

Figure 1 shows the flat top of the table or desk with its parts folded. Fig. 2 shows the under side of the same with the parts in place. Fig. 3 is a front elevation of the hand-rest, to show the arrangement of devices for elevating it. Fig. 4 shows the hand-rest folded down and the lids of a book supported on the adjustable side tables to bring the surface of both sides of the leaves on a level. Fig. 5 is a side elevation of the hand-rest and table.

The device is shown complete for laying upon a desk or table; but legs or supports at the four corners may be affixed to form a desk or table, if desirable.

In Fig. 1, A A represent the supporting-tablets resting upon the frame O, E, and P. (Shown in Fig. 2.) The fixed intermediate piece B is to receive the ordinary spring-back of books of record, while the side tables can be separately or jointly adjusted, to bring the upper surface of the leaves on each side to a level position by means of links I, attached to the sides of the tables above, and to the frame and center-piece below. These links are held by pivot-pins, like in an ordinary parallel ruler, and act in unison to raise either table independently from the other. To hold the same in adjustment, the forward pair of links I' are each notched, to receive a pawl, K, on a shaft, G, arranged in suitable bearings, and externally provided with a han-

dle, H, to separately actuate each pair of pawls under each table.

When the book is adjusted a projecting metallic strip, C, forming a part of the hand-rest D, is brought down and supported upon the lower margin of the book, said rest having been previously raised for the purpose. Thus the hand-rest is in the same horizontal plane with the leaves to be written upon, and the object of my invention thereby attained. This hand-rest D and metallic ledge C are connected with a metallic cross-strip, L, and an intermediate section or strip, M, by means of combined plates F, hinged at four points, and moving on fixed pins or pintles f, like lazy-tongs, one of the pins of each pair sliding in a slot in the strip M aforesaid. Thus the hand-rest can be raised the desired height, and the overlapping ledge C brought to rest on the margin of the book.

A simple pair of jointed links and a moving intermediate plate may be used; but I prefer the arrangement shown and described.

As before stated, the object in view is to raise the hand-rest and tables independently, and to cause them to retain their horizontal position. Hence they must be separately adjustable, and so held when adjusted.

I am aware that book-supports connected with the ends of an oscillating lever, which is held on a central pivot, as shown in Patents No. 95,369 and No. 140,107, are used without a hand-rest, as also a hand-rest clamped to the cover of a book, as shown in Patent No. 165,885, all of which I disclaim; but I am not aware of a combination of an adjustable hand-rest with two independently-moved book-supports which are separately operated and held in their adjustment, substantially as herein set forth.

What I claim as my invention is—

The combination of an adjustable hand-rest, D, with its ledge C and slotted bar M, the independently-adjustable side tablets A A, pawl K, and shaft G, and central piece B, arranged and operated substantially as and for the purpose specified.

ISAAC WITWER.

Witnesses:

SAMUEL DILLMAN,
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