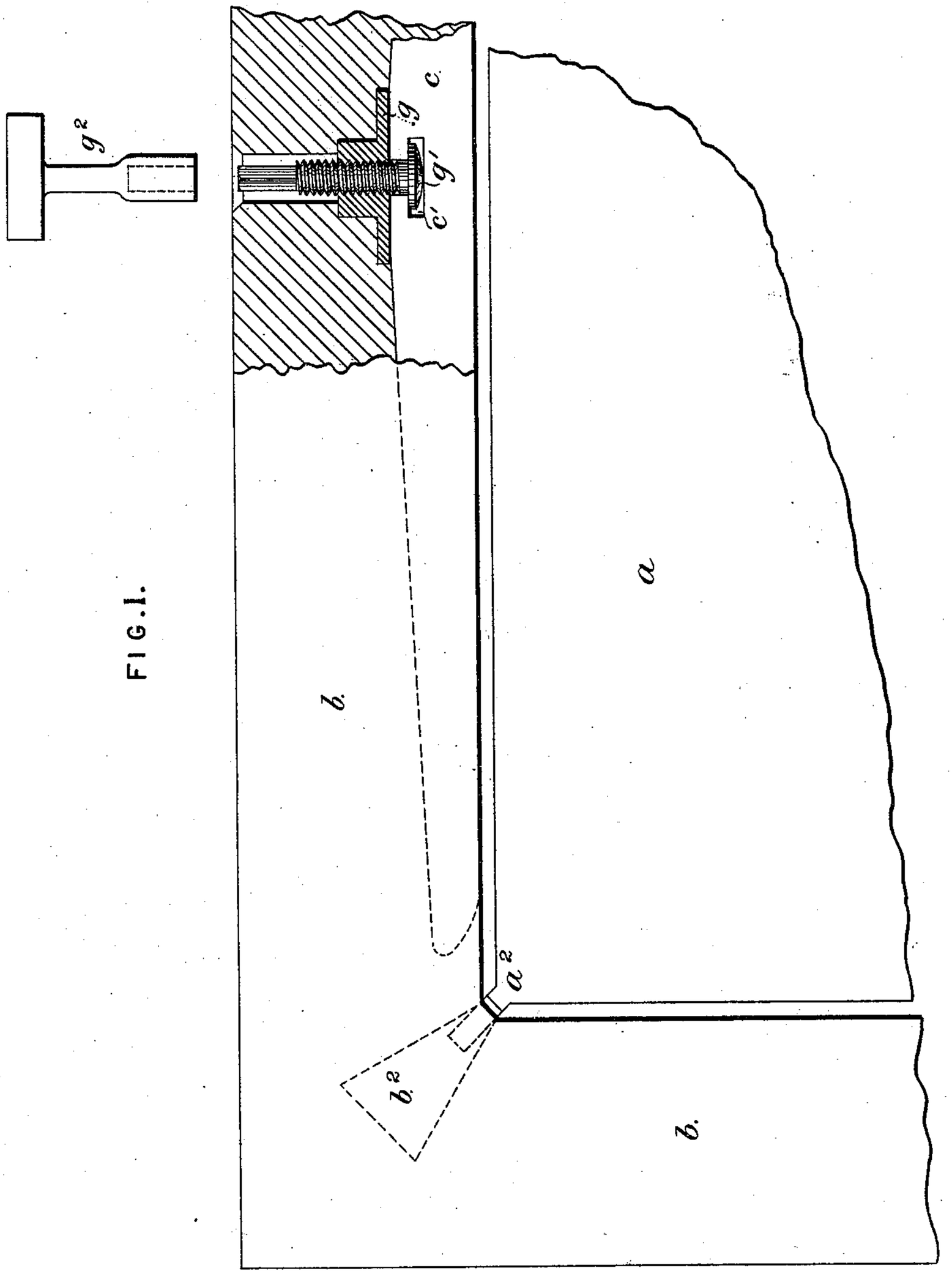
(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

T. C. ROUSSEL.

ARTIST'S DRAWING BOARD.

No. 408,675. Patented Aug. 6, 1889.

FIG. I.



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INVENTOR:

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(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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ARTIST'S DRAWING BOARD.

No. 408,675. Patented Aug. 6, 1889.

FIG. 2.

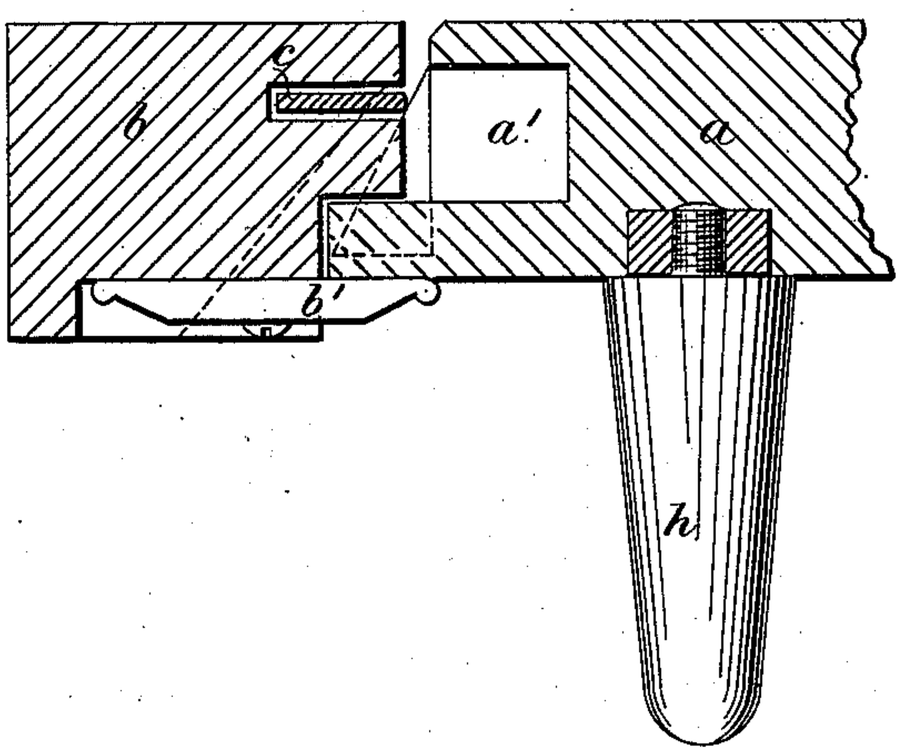


FIG. 3.

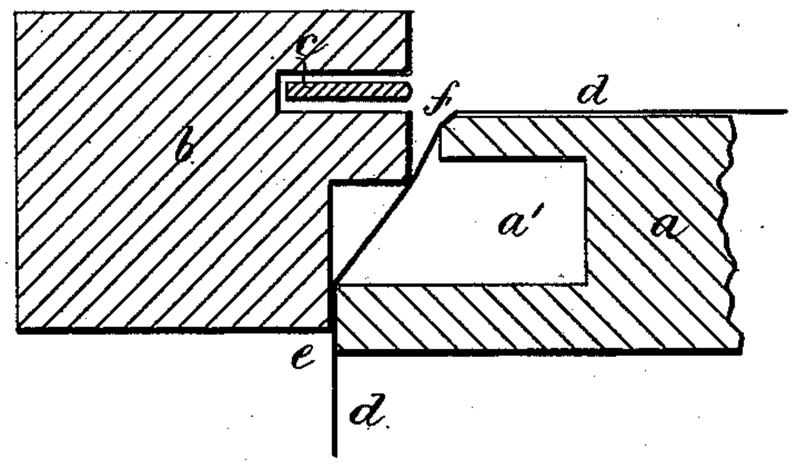


FIG. 4

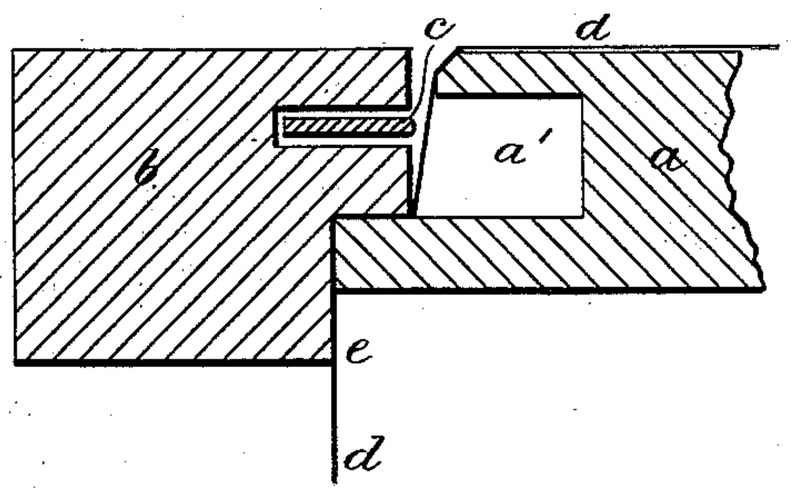


FIG. 5.

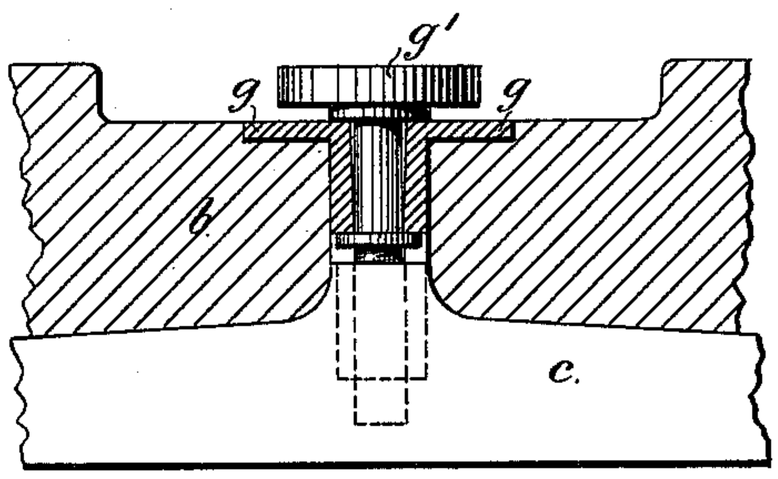
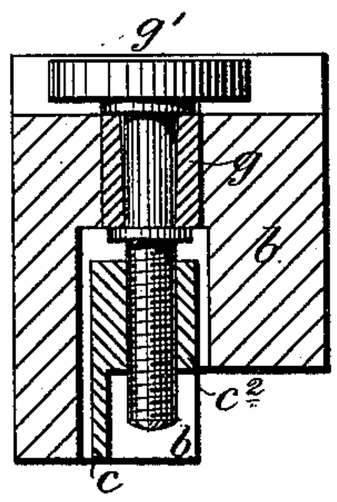


FIG. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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ASSIGNOR TO BENJAMIN ROUXEL, OF LÉGUÉ, FRANCE.

ARTIST'S DRAWING-BOARD.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 408,675, dated August 6, 1889.

Application filed May 3, 1887. Serial No. 236,935. (No model.) Patented in England April 6, 1886, No. 4,782; in Belgium December 11, 1886, No. 55,920, and in France December 11, 1886, No. 167,416.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THEODORE CASIMIR ROUSSEL, a citizen of France, residing at 495 King's Road, Chelsea, in the county of Middlesex, England, have invented new and useful Improvements in Artists' Drawing-Boards, (for which I have made the following applications for Letters Patent: Great Britain, April 6, 1886, No. 4,782; Belgium, December 11, 1886, No. 55,920; France, December 11, 1886, No. 167,416,) of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to drawing-boards such as are commonly used by water-color artists, and which are required not merely for the purpose of affixing the paper to while the work is being executed, but for stretching and holding the same in a tightly-stretched state.

In the accompanying drawings, which serve to illustrate my invention, Figure 1 is a fragmentary view of a drawing-board embodying my improvements. This view shows one corner of the board in plan and a part in section. It also shows the key detached. Fig. 2 is a transverse section of the frame and of the adjacent portion of the board. Figs. 3, 4, 5, and 6 are illustrative fragmentary sectional views, that will be hereinafter more particularly described.

A drawing-board constructed according to this invention consists of two main parts—a board and a surrounding frame—as represented in the accompanying drawings.

Each edge of the board *a* is formed with a longitudinal groove *a'*, and in each of the four sides of the frame *b* is mounted a strip of metal or other stiff material *c*, provided with means for enabling the same to be projected edgewise into the groove *a'* in the edge of the board. The edges of the board and the adjacent sides of the surrounding frame are respectively so formed as to produce upon the paper an initial stretching effect when the frame is applied to the paper-covered board and forced downward. This action will be more readily understood on referring to the diagrams, Figs. 3 and 4, whereof Fig. 3 shows the relative positions of the frame and board when the former is first applied, the sheet of paper *d* being at that moment gripped between the surfaces of the frame and board at the point *e*, while it remains free to be drawn through the space between the surfaces at the point *f*. Fig. 4 shows the position of the parts after the frame has been pressed home and the slack of the paper taken up, as indicated by the additional length of the solid line representing the position of paper at this later stage. The additional length of paper involved in assuming the form indicated in Fig. 4 is obtained by an extension of the body of the sheet rather than by retracting a portion thereof past the point *e*, where the paper was originally gripped between the edges of the frame and board. The corners of the board are further provided with projecting miter-pieces a^2, which extend into suitable recesses b^2, formed in the corners of the frame, these projections imparting folds to the paper at the corners of the board, and tending to prevent the same becoming torn at those parts.

For operating the metal or other strip with which each side of the frame is furnished, (and which, when projected into the groove in the edge of the board, serves to extend the paper therein, thus stretching or additionally stretching the same,) one or more screw appliances may be employed. A device of this description is represented in the sectional portion of Fig. 1, and consists of a screw-threaded nut *g*, sunk in the body of the frame *b* and furnished with a screw-bolt *g'*, whereof the head engages in a slot *c'*, formed in the strip *c*. The outer extremity of the bolt *g'* is provided with a handle or formed for the reception of a key, such as g^2, whereby the screw *g'* may be operated and the strip *c* advanced or withdrawn.

The strip *c* is preferably so mounted in relation to the recess *a'* in the board that when advanced it arrives against or close to one side of the said recess, the paper when stretched being by these means securely held and maintained in a state of tension, while lateral support is afforded to the strip.

When screw adjustments of the kind hereinbefore described are employed, I prefer to construct those on opposite sides of the board with opposite-handed threads—that or those on the right side having left-hand threads,

and that or those on the left side having right-hand threads. Under such a method of construction the motion of the hands in simultaneously manipulating the fastenings on opposite sides of the board corresponds.

Mechanism suitable for operating the strips *c* may be constructed in various ways other than that hereinbefore particularly described. One alternative mode of construction is represented in the plan and transverse views, Figs. 5 and 6, and consists in mounting upon the strip *c* a snug c^2, screw-threaded for the reception of the adjusting-screw *g'*. *g* is a bearing, which may be formed in halves and mounted, together with the screw *g'*, in the frame *b*, longitudinal motion of the screw being prevented by collars bearing against the opposite sides of the bearing *g*.

Another mode of manipulating and securing the strips *c* consists in attaching to them bars which project outward through slots in the frame, and which may be locked in position by means of pins passed through the frame and bars after the strips have, by means of the latter, been pushed inward.

For convenience in use, particularly during the operation of stretching a sheet of paper, we prefer to mount the whole apparatus on studs *h*, which may be fitted in sockets, as represented in Fig. 2, and which may be removable. If the face of the board be desired to assume an inclined position, the supporting-studs appertaining to one side of the board may be removed, those appertaining to the other side being retained.

To facilitate the escape of moisture from the portion of the paper confined between the board and frame, the latter may be provided with slots or perforations communicating between the inner and outer faces thereof. The portion of the board beneath the recess *a'* may be similarly furnished. It is also expedient to provide the frame with buttons, as represented at *b'*, Fig. 2, or equivalent appliances, for securely fastening the frame to the board.

Having thus particularly described and ascertained the nature of this invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, I claim—

1. A drawing-board adapted for stretching paper, and consisting of a board with grooved edges, and a surrounding frame furnished with strips capable of being advanced into the grooves and operating to extend the paper therein, substantially as herein described.

2. A drawing-board adapted for stretching paper, and consisting of a board having recessed edges, and a frame formed with projections for entering the several recesses, the parts being so arranged in relation to one another that during the operation of applying the frame to the board the sheet of paper becomes gripped and then extended, substantially as described.

3. The recessed frame of the drawing-board, having strips—such as *c*—mounted in its recesses, and having also means whereby said strips may be advanced and retracted, substantially as set forth.

4. A drawing-board adapted for stretching paper, provided with studs or supports *h* on one of its faces, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

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Witnesses:
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