

STEAM IRONING PRESS WITH ROTATABLE MEMBERS

Known portable steam ironing presses, as disclosed for example in U.S. Patent 4955152, employ a frame having a stationary lower section and a horizontally elongated upper section vertically pivotable about the lower section. A lower horizontally elongated member is secured to the lower section. An upper horizontally elongated member is secured to the upper section. The upper section can be manually pivoted upward to a position at which the upper member is spaced above the lower member and can be manually pivoted downward to bring the upper member into engagement with the lower member. An article to be pressed is disposed between the members while they are separated and is squeezed therebetween when the members engage. The article is pressed using heat and steam supplied with appropriate timing via the upper member.

In such presses, the two members extend horizontally outward at right angles to the direction of elongation of the upper section. However, while this arrangement is required during normal use, it is awkward and expensive to ship these presses because of the outward extension of the members. It is also awkward and sometimes difficult to move these presses from place to place.

The present invention is directed toward steam ironing presses of this known type in which this shipping problem may be overcome. To this end, these presses are constructed in such manner that the members can be manually rotated and locked into a position for shipping at which the members are parallel to and aligned with the direction of elongation of the upper section.

The presses can be shipped easily and less expensively when the members are rotated into this shipping position and, moreover, it is easier to remove the presses from place to place when the members are in

this position.

Once the presses are placed in a position for normal use, the members can be unlocked manually and then rotated and locked into a position for use at which the members extend horizontally at right angles to the frame. Once in the position for normal use, the presses can then be operated in conventional manner.

In accordance with the invention, a portable steam ironing press is provided, having a frame having a stationary lower section and a horizontally elongated upper section vertically pivotable about the lower section.

A lower horizontally elongated member is secured to the lower section and is manually rotatable thereabout in a horizontal plane between a position for use at which the lower member extends horizontally at right angles to the direction of elongation of the upper section and a position for shipping at which the lower member extends in the direction of elongation of the upper section;

An upper horizontally elongated member is secured to the upper section and is manually rotatable thereabout in a horizontal plane between a position for use at which the upper member extends horizontally at right angles to the direction of elongation of the upper section and a position for shipping at which the lower member extends in the direction of elongation of the upper section, the upper and lower members being in vertical alignment when both members are in the same position.

A first mechanism interconnects the upper member and the upper section and is manually operable to lock the upper member in either selected position or to unlock the upper member to permit manual rotation thereof;

A second mechanism interconnects the lower member and the lower section and is manually operable to lock the lower member in either selected position or to unlock the lower member to permit manual rotation thereof.

The advantages of this invention either will be explained or will become apparent hereinafter.

An embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of example only with reference to the
5 accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a steam ironing press according to the invention, in position for normal use,

Fig. 2 is a view in partial cross-section of an
10 upper section and of Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 is a detail view of a first mechanism which cooperates with the upper member,

Fig. 4 is a view in partial cross-section of a lower section and of Fig. 1,

15 Fig. 5 is a detail view of a second mechanism which cooperates with the lower member.

Referring now to Figs. 1-5, the invention employs a frame having a horizontally elongated upper section 10 vertically pivotable about a stationary lower
20 section 12.

The upper horizontally elongated section 10 has a circular opening 16 in the lower surface through which a vertical shaft 18 extends. Member 14 is affixed to the lower end of the shaft 18 which has a circular lip 20
25 extending from and surrounding the shaft. Lip 20 contains first, second and third spaced slots 22, 24 and 25. Member 14 is manually rotatable about a selected arc, one end of which is defined by slot 22, the other end being defined by slot 25.

30 A spring loaded button 26 extends through a top surface of the upper section and is normally spring biased to a fully raised position. Button 26 has a horizontal lip 28 which engages one pivotable end of lever 30. The other downwardly projecting end 32 of
35 lever 30, when the button is fully raised, engages one of the slots depending upon the position of manual rotation of member.

When slot 22 is engaged, the member 14 is locked into the use position disposed at right angles to the direction of elongation of the upper section. When slot 25 is engaged, the member is locked into the shipping position disposed coincident with the direction of elongation of the upper section.

When the button is depressed, the lever 30 is pivoted by downward movement of lip 28 until end 32 is raised above the slots and the member 14 can be rotated as desired for movement into either use or shipping position.

A lower horizontally elongated section 12 has a circular opening 42 through which a vertical shaft 44 extends. Member 40 is affixed to the upper end of shaft 44 which has a circular lip 46 extending from and surrounding the shaft. Lip 46 contains first, second and third spaced slots 48, 50 and 51. Member 40 is manually rotatable about a selected arc, one end of which is defined by slot 48, the other end being defined by slot 51.

An elongated handle 52 projects outwardly below member 40. The inner end of handle 52 connects to one end of lever 54. The opposite end 56 of lever 54 projects upwardly. Lever 54 between its ends is pivotable in downwardly extending support 58. Handle 52 is normally spring biased into horizontal position by spring 60 extending between the handle and the section 12.

When the handle is in horizontal position, end 56 engages one of the slots 48, 50 and 51, depending upon the position of manual rotation of member.

When slot 48 is engaged, the member 40 is locked into the use position disposed at right angles to the direction of elongation of the upper section. When slot 51 is engaged, the member 40 is locked into the shipping position disposed coincident with the direction of elongation of the upper section.

When the handle is raised, the lever 54 is pivoted until end 56 is lowered below the slots and the member 40 can be rotated as desired for movement into either use or shipping position.



CLAIMS:

1. A portable steam ironing press comprising:
 a frame having a stationary lower section and a horizontally elongated upper section vertically pivotable about the lower section;
 a lower horizontally elongated member secured to the lower section and manually rotatable thereabout in a horizontal plane between a position for use at which the lower member extends horizontally at right angles to the direction of elongation of the upper section and a position for shipping at which the lower member extends in the direction of elongation of the upper section;
 an upper horizontally elongated member secured to the upper section and manually rotatable thereabout in a horizontal plane between a position for use at which the upper member extends horizontally at right angles to the direction of elongation of the upper section and a position for shipping at which the lower member extends in the direction of elongation of the upper section, the upper and lower members being in vertical alignment when both members are in the same position;
 a first mechanism interconnecting the upper member and the upper section and manually operable to lock the upper member in either selected position or to unlock the upper member to permit manual rotation thereof; and
 a second mechanism interconnecting the lower member and the lower section and manually operable to lock the lower member in either selected position or to unlock the lower member to permit manual rotation thereof.
2. A press according to claim 1 wherein each mechanism has a lever which has a first unlocking position and a second and different locking position.
3. A press according to claim 2 wherein each member



has first and second spaced slots, each member being locked in the use position when the lever of the corresponding mechanism is placed in the second position and engages the first slot.

4. A press according to claim 3 wherein each member is locked into the shipping position when the lever of the corresponding mechanism is placed in the second position and engages the second slot.

5. A press according to any one of claims 2 to 4 wherein the lever of each mechanism is normally in the second position and is only placed in the first position when manual pressure is applied to the mechanism.

6. A press according to anyone of claims 2 to 5 wherein each mechanism is spring loaded to maintain the corresponding lever in the second position.

7. A steam ironing press substantially as described herein with reference to, and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.
