



## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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| (21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/15845<br>(22) International Filing Date: 30 July 1998 (30.07.98)<br>(30) Priority Data:<br>08/904,707                      1 August 1997 (01.08.97)                      US<br>(71) Applicant: SICO INCORPORATED [US/US]; 7525 Cahill Road, P.O. Box 1169, Minneapolis, MN 55440 (US).<br>(72) Inventors: WAGNER, Walter, R.; 17801 Inverness Curve, Eden Prairie, MN 55347 (US). DESIMONE, Mark; 243 Blake Road South, Hopkins, MN 55343 (US).<br>(74) Agent: BRUESS, Steven, C.; Merchant, Gould, Smith, Edell, Welter & Schmidt, P.A., 3100 Norwest Center, 90 South Seventh Street, Minneapolis, MN 55402-4131 (US). |  | (81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AT (Utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, CZ (Utility model), DE, DE (Utility model), DK, DK (Utility model), EE, EE (Utility model), ES, FI, FI (Utility model), GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (Utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).<br><br>Published<br>With international search report. |                                                                  |

(54) Title: FOLDING STAGE

## (57) Abstract

A folding stage (20) includes a folding linkage (30) with cross members (62, 64) at clear a center lock (40). The center lock (40) has a handle below the cross members (62, 64) and off to the side of the cross members (62, 64) to prevent pinching of operators' hands and fingers. The folding linkage (30) folds from a use position wherein stage decks (24) are horizontal to form a stage surface to a storage position wherein the bottom of the stage decks (24) oppose one another. In the fully folded position, stage support legs (28) are angled inward slightly. Casters (90) mount at an oblique angle to the telescoping legs (28) and are moved closer to the telescoping legs (28) to decrease the moment of inertia about the legs (28) while maintaining sufficient contact with the floor. Torsion bars (78) mount at the pivoting access of the frame (22) and the telescoping legs (28) to control folding speed. The folding portions of the frame (22) and decks (24) have a center of gravity which is aligned with the pivoting access to decrease the moment of inertia about the pivoting axis.

