# US-4588074-A Holder for storing and supporting articles

(1) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION  
(2) 1. Field of the Invention  
(3) The present invention relates to article holders, and more particularly to a dual purpose holder for both storing, and supporting in open position, books, magazines, pamphlets, and similar items.  
(4) 2. Description of the Prior Art  
(5) Holders or cases for both storing and displaying items are known. For example, see U.S. Pat. Nos. 682,522; 1,930,347 and 3,301,621. One type of known holder is composed of two diagonal sections that are hinged together to form a right rectangular polyhedron shape. One section serves as the body of the holder while the other section serves as the cover. When the diagonal sections are closed, the contents of the holder are enclosed and protected and when the cover is swung open, the item contained therein is visible for display. Examples of such holders or cases are found in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,108,310; 4,320,829; and 4,323,153.  
(6) The '310 patent discloses a container for a blood pressure testing kit composed of a pressure gauge, humeral cuff, pump, bleed valve, and stethoscope. All the components of the kit, except the pressure gauge, are stored within the body of the case. The pressure gauge is mounted within the top or cover of the case so that when the case is open, the gauge is in proper orientation to be read. The cover and body are molded from polypropylene in a single piece and are interconnected by a so-called "living hinge" that is integrally molded with the body and cover. A drawback of this particular type of construction is that the polypropylene material composing the hinge is not durable enough to withstand the severe bending occurring each time the cover is opened and closed. However, if the hinge is made in a stronger, more durable manner, i.e., by constructing it from thicker material, the hinge may be too stiff to enable the cover to remain in full open position without springing back into semiclosed position.  
(7) The prior art also includes a container for recipe books composed of a body and a cover. The container is opened by pivoting the cover forwardly about a horizontal hinge. The hinge is located below the centerline of the front wall of the container so that the cover is tilted when fully opened, with the forward corner of the cover resting on the surface on which the box is sitting. Upwardly open, deep notches are formed in the sidewalls of the cover to receive and retain the lower edge portion of a recipe book in open position. The upper portion of the recipe book rests rearwardly against the upper forward corners of the container. An example of a recipe container constructed in this manner is disclosed by U.S. Pat. No. 1,930,347. A significant disadvantage of this type of container is that if the recipe book is narrower than the width of the container, it cannot be supported by the notches of the cover. Even if the opened book is wider than the container, because the notches only contact a narrow portion of the book, the pages of the book may slide out of the notches, especially if the book is relatively stiff. Moreover, the book may not be tall enough to rest against the forward edges of the container, and will fall rearwardly against the forward inclined edges of the container sidewalls at an angle that may be inconvenient for the reader.  
(8) SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION  
(9) The present invention provides a holder for books and similar items that may be used to both store the books and support them in open position at a fixed angle, even if the books are substantially shorter and narrower than the holder. Additionally, the invention provides a stable support structure for a book or similar item that is capable of accommodating discontinuities in the surface on which the structure rests.  
(10) In one embodiment of the invention a holder for books and similar items is constructed with a body and a cover hinged to the front portion of the body to pivot between an upward, closed position for enclosing an article in the body, and a downward, open position for supporting the article against the front of the holder. The cover is formed with a top wall that closes off the top of the body. An elongated abutment lip extends transversely downward from he rear edge of the cover top wall to engage with portions of the body when the cover is in closed position. When the cover is in open position, the top wall of the cover is disposed in front of and coplanar with the bottom of the body, and the abutment lip extends upwardly to serve as a stop for the lower edge of the article being supported against the holder.  
(11) In another embodiment, the body is formed from front and rear walls interconnected by sidewalls, with the front wall being about one-half the height of the rear wall. The sidewalls have diagonal forward edge portions that slope upwardly and rearwardly from approximately the top of the body front wall to intersect the top of the body sidewalls at locations forwardly of the body rear wall. The cover is constructed from a front wall, a top wall and parallel sidewalls having diagonal rear edges sloped complementarily to the diagonal forward edges of the body sidewalls to extend upwardly and rearwardly from approximately the lower edge of the cover front wall to intersect the cover top wall at locations spaced forwardly of the rear edge portion of the cover top wall. When the cover is in closed position, the corresponding diagonal edges of the body and cover sidewalls are in contacting, abutting relationship to each other. When in open position, the cover overlies the body front wall and the diagonal edges of the corresponding cover and body sidewalls are in longitudinal alignment with each other.  
(12) In a further aspect of the present invention, the body and cover are interconnected by double-acting hinges composed of a link member pivotally secured to the upper edge portion of the container front wall and the lower edge portion of the cover front wall at spaced-apart locations along the link member. Clearance notches are formed in the front walls of the cover and body for receiving the link member. Pairs of aligned pins extend outwardly from the side edges of the notches to engage within corresponding aligned sockets formed in the side edges of the link members. Conversely, the pins may stick outwardly from the side edges of the link members to engage within corresponding sockets formed in the side edge portions of the clearance notches.