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BOOK ENDS

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A pair of book ends between which a row of books are held by means of a length of interconnecting elastic. As books are added to or removed from the row of books the elastic is extended or retracted. An arrangement of rollers within recesses in the walls of the book ends enable the length of elastic to be folded upon itself so as to increase its extensible length. In addition, the vertical member and the base of each book end are detachably interconnected so as to provide a collapsible construction for storage or shipping.

This invention relates to book ends and has reference to that type of construction wherein elastic is used for extending and retracting the ends as books are added to or removed from the row of books supported thereby. Particularly, the invention is directed to an arrangement of rollers within the book ends whereby the length of the elastic may be folded on itself so as to increase its extensible length. Generally, this is accomplished by providing at least one recess in each book end, mounting at least one transverse roller in the recess at a distance from the corner of the base and the vertical member, fastening an end of the elastic in the cavity at or near the referred to corner, positioning the elastic over and around the roller and connecting the remaining end of the elastic with the other book end where it is similarly mounted.

In addition to increasing the extensible length of the elastic for the purpose stated, it is an object of the invention to provide a simplified construction as compared with adjustable book ends having spring actuated rollers for drawing the ends together.

Another object is to provide, in addition to the foregoing objects, a collapsible construction for storage or shipping.

These and other objects of the invention will become apparent from the following description and the accompanying drawing, in which:

FIGURE 1 is an elevational view of a pair of book ends according to the invention supporting a row of books.

FIGURE 2 is an enlarged perspective view of the bottom of a base and the inner face of a vertical member and showing a preferred arrangement of elastic for the described purpose.

FIGURE 3 is a vertical longitudinal section of the construction illustrated in FIGURE 2.

FIGURE 4 is a view similar to FIGURE 3 but showing a modified form of the invention.

FIGURE 5 is a broken front elevational and partly sectional view of a further modified form of the invention, and

FIGURE 6 is a perspective view of the form of the

invention illustrated in FIGURE 5 and showing the same in collapsed position.

Referring now to the form of the invention illustrated in FIGURES 1–3, each of the pair of book ends includes a square or rectangular base **10** and a similarly shaped vertical member **11**. The outer face of each vertical member **11** is rabbeted along its lower edge at **12** to receive the inner end of the adjoining base **10** where the two are detachably secured by screws **13**. Elongate recesses **14** and **15** in the inner face of each vertical member **11** and the bottom surface of each base **10**, respectively, and between their respective sides, intersect at the corner defined by the member and the base. Within the upper and lower ends of the recesses **14** of the vertical members **11** there are transverse shafts **16** on which rollers **17** are mounted for free rotation. Similarly, there is another shaft **16** and roller **17** in the outer or remote end of the recess **15** in each base **10**. The shafts **16** are inserted in transverse slots **16*a*** as shown in FIGURE 2. A length of elastic **18** is attached at one end, as by a staple **19**, to the inner surface of the lower recess **15** near the corner of the base **10** and vertical member **11** of one book end, and then extends upwardly over the upper roller **17** in the recess **14**, downwardly and around the corner roller, thence over the roller in the base and then back along its length to the other book end where it is mounted in the same manner. A length of cloth tape **20** is attached by staples **21** to the bottom of each vertical member **11** to retain and guide the elastic **18**. The elastic **18** is of such length that it is in tension at all times, that is, even when there are no books **22** between the vertical members **11**.

The form of the invention illustrated in FIGURE 4 is similar to the foregoing, except the recesses **14** and rollers **17** in the vertical members **11** are eliminated. Instead, there is a transverse slot **23** in the bottom of each vertical member **11** where the end of the elastic **18** is attached by a staple **19**. As before, the length of the elastic extends over the roller **17** in the recess **15** in the base **10**, back along its length and out through the slot **23** to the companion book end, not shown, where the remaining end of the elastic is mounted in the same manner. A tape **20** is stapled or otherwise attached across the slot **23** to retain and guide the elastic **18**.

The form of the invention illustrated in FIGURES 5 and 6 has to do with means for quickly and conveniently compacting either described form of the invention. FIGURE 5 is applicable to either form, but FIGURE 6 is specific to the first described form. Instead of the screws **13**, a pair of dowels **24** project from the end of each base **10** and are received in corresponding sockets **25** in the vertical members **11**. Thus, the vertical members **11** may be folded on their respective bases **10**, with the elastic **18** serving as hinges, and then the two book ends may be stacked as shown in FIGURE 6.

The invention is not limited to the exemplary constructions herein shown and described, but may be made in various ways within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A pair of book ends wherein each book end is comprised of a base member and a vertical member defining a corner by intersection of their lower and inner surfaces, a longitudinal recess in one of said members perpendic-