

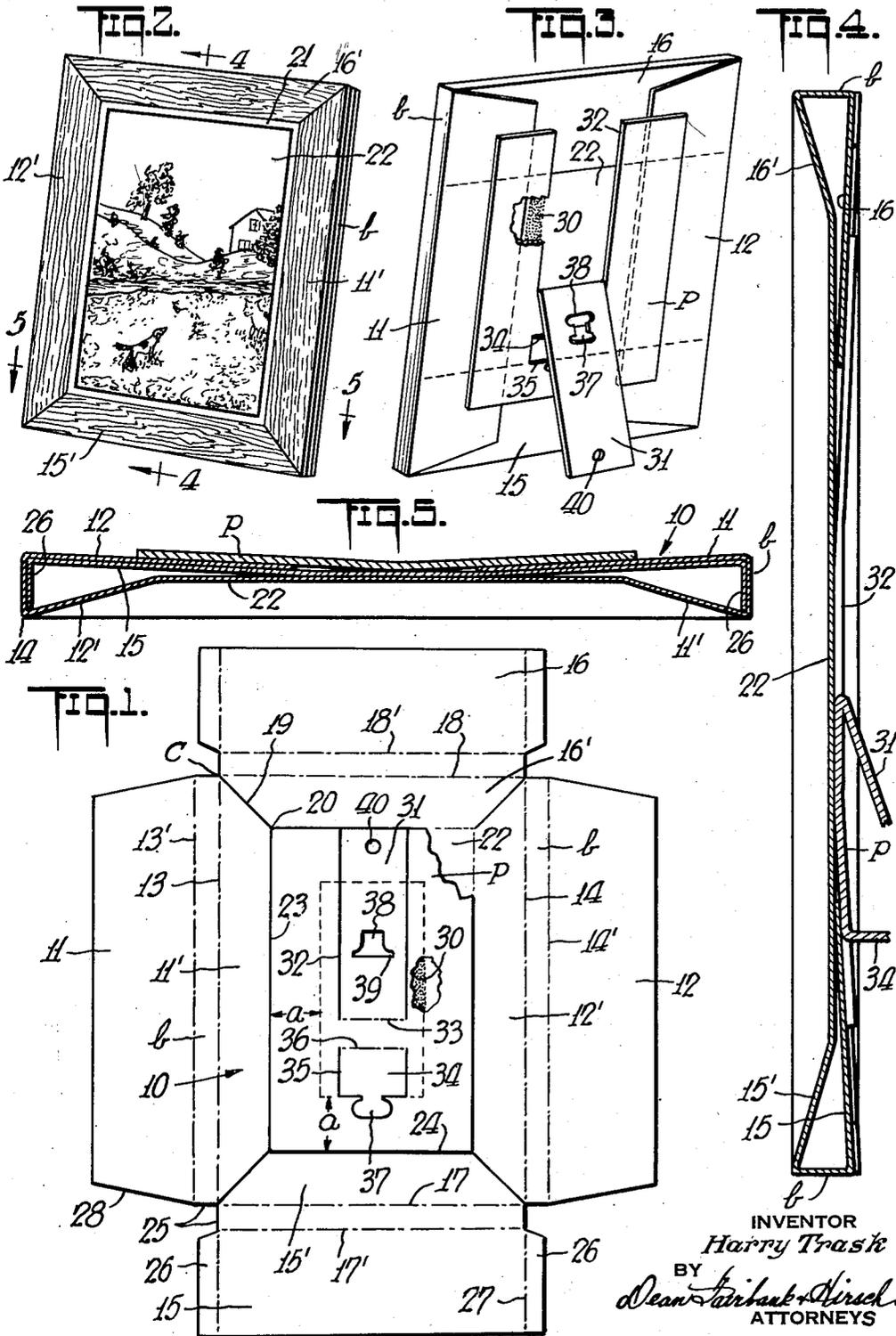
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PICTURE FRAME

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2,581,733

PICTURE FRAME

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6 Claims. (Cl. 40-155)

1

The present invention relates to simulated picture frames.

It is among the objects of the invention to provide a structure wholly of flat bendable stock such as cardboard that may be stacked and shipped flat and that can readily be set up by the unskilled ultimate user, without the need for pasting, stitching, nailing, stapling, riveting or resort to tools or implements, and when set up, simulates a wooden or metal picture frame having the appearance of substantial solidity, with the picture, matted or unmatted, confined therein, and which may also afford easel facilities and alternative hanging facilities.

In the accompanying drawings in which are shown one or more of various possible embodiments of the several features of the invention,

Fig. 1 is a rear plan view showing the flat stock of the picture frame before the same has been set up,

Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing the general appearance of the set-up picture frame,

Fig. 3 is a perspective view from the rear thereof showing the same set-up in easel-supported position,

Fig. 4 is a view in longitudinal cross section, with parts broken away and on an enlarged scale, taken on line 4-4 of Fig. 2, and

Fig. 5 is a transverse cross sectional view also on an enlarged scale, taken along line 5-5 of Fig. 2.

Referring now to Fig. 1 of the drawings, the structure comprises a blank of light flexible bendable sheet stock of low cost, preferably of fine clay coated paperboard or cardboard. That blank consists of a rectangular body 10 from the sides of which protrude flaps unitary therewith including flaps 11 and 12 from the vertical fold edges 13 and 14 respectively and flaps 15 and 16 similarly protruding from the horizontal fold edges 17 and 18, respectively. The body has oblique slits 19 extending inward from its corners C to points 20 which define the corners of the mat or border 21 about the picture 22 or the corners of the picture itself if no border is employed, said picture being directly imprinted upon or pasted to the front face of such body. By virtue of slits 19, the respective flaps thus have trapezoidal root sections 11', 12', 15' and 16', which are folded outward from the front about fold lines 23, 24 that connect the consecutive inner ends 20 of slits 19.

The respective flaps are provided with fold lines 13', 14', 17' and 18', parallel to the fold lines 13, 14, 17 and 18 respectively and defining bands b

2

therebetween which determine the thickness of the frame. The ends 25 of each of the bands b extend at right angles to the respective folds that determine such bands and thus are at right angles to each other at each corner C of the body 10.

Opposed flaps 15 and 16 desirably have extension tabs 26 folded inward from fold lines 27 that extend at right angles to the respective fold lines 17' and 18' thereof. Each of the tabs 26 desirably extends the entire width of the tabs 15 and 16, respectively, and is itself of height slightly less than the width of the band b.

Securely affixed to the rear face of the body and of area desirably equal to but no greater than that of the matted picture 21, 22 is a backing sheet or plate P, desirably of cardboard thicker and stiffer than that of the flexible frame. This backing is secured to the back of the frame body in manner such as to leave free from attachment a substantial rim a of such backing, desirably an inch or more in width. While the backing may thus be centrally attached to the body in any of numerous ways, it is preferred so to attach it at an adhesive area 30.

The front of the blank is desirably imprinted to simulate wood graining, metal finish or the like, on those portions that correspond to the frame, viz, the flap root sections 11', 12', 15' and 16' and the four band sections b.

The flat blank structure shown in Fig. 1 is readily set up for use, by merely folding down the end tabs 26 and tucking the end flaps 15, 16 inward under the corresponding free border a of the backing sheet P which thus serves as a holding cleat therefor, as will be clear especially from Fig. 3. In this relation the free edges of the infolded end tabs 26 will engage the respective fold lines 13 and 14 and help to determine the position of the flap root sections 15' and 16' to extend obliquely outward from the edges of the picture in the manner of the front of a conventional picture frame, as shown. Preferably the ends of the adhesive area 30 serve as stops for the edges of flaps 15 and 16 when these are properly positioned.

Thereupon, the remaining opposed flaps 11 and 12 are tucked in under the corresponding unsecured rim areas a of the backing sheet, and over the flaps 15 and 16, which have a tapered form as at 28 to facilitate insertion, the edges of the adhesive area 30 desirably serving as stops for the free edges of such flaps. Thus all four band areas b of the respective flaps 11, 12, 15 and 16 are disposed at right angles to the picture and the corner edges 25 which in the blank are at

3

right angles to each other, will thereby abut in edge-to-edge relation to form the corners of the picture frame and all four areas 11', 12', 15' and 16' rise obliquely outward from the edges of the picture in the manner of a conventional picture frame.

While the structure, shown in Fig. 1, is flat and convenient for stacking and for shipping in a flat mailing envelope, without likelihood of crushing or other injury, yet, when set up in the simple manner indicated, in which the backing sheet serves as a holding cleat for the respective flaps, there is provided the appearance of a framed picture, the inexpensive construction of which is not apparent except upon close inspection, and the frame is thus set up without the need for pasting, stitching, nailing, stapling, riveting or for accessories or implements for the purpose and the manufacturer is saved the cost of this manual set up operation. The frame may, if desired, be readily opened by withdrawing the various flaps from under the backing sheet for convenience in transportation and may be re-set up as desired.

The frame set forth may and desirably is equipped with a normally flat easel construction as a unitary part therewith. That easel may be a separate element attached to the midsection of backing sheet P. Preferably however, the easel construction is pre-cut from the backing sheet P. It may comprise an easel leg 31 at the median part of the backing sheet, formed by a pair of parallel upright slits 32 from the upper edge of sheet P and connected by a transverse fold line 33 about which the easel leg may be folded.

A coacting easel strut or cross-bar 34 is similarly cut from the sheet P by short slits 35 desirably aligned with the longer slits 32, and spaced therefrom, the upper ends of which slits are connected by fold line 36, the strut or cross-bar being formed with a unitary hook 37 also cut out from the sheet P and coacting with a corresponding opening 38 in the easel bar widened at 39 to accommodate the ears of the hook 37.

The easel is readily set up when desired, as best shown in Fig. 3, by bending down the easel leg 31 and introducing the strut hook 34 through the corresponding opening 38. Desirably, also the easel structure, or if no easel or a separate easel piece is provided, the unslitted backing sheet may have a small central aperture 40 or two lateral apertures (not shown) for convenience in hanging the picture on the wall.

The invention thus affords an extraordinarily inexpensive expedient for an attractive simulation of a solid frame with a picture therein. It accordingly lends itself especially to the advertising arts and for seasonal or holiday embellishments of the home, school or auditorium among numerous other applications.

As many changes could be made in the above device and many apparently widely different embodiments thereof could be made without departing from the scope of the claims, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawings shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A picture frame of flat stock, comprising a blank of flexible, bendable sheet stock, having a rectangular picture carrying body, flaps protruding from the lengths of the respective sides of said body, said flaps each having a fold line at the

4

corresponding edge of the body, defining the outer forward edge of the frame, each flap having a fold line parallel thereto defining the outer back edge of the frame, and a backing sheet of cardboard secured to the rear of said body but free of said body about the edges thereof to serve as a cleat for releasably retaining the free edges of said flaps tucked in position between the body and the backing sheet.

2. A picture frame of flexible, bendable sheet stock comprising a blank of generally rectangular form having unitary therewith flaps extending the lengths of the respective sides of said body, and having diagonal slits extending inward from the respective corners thereof and defining at the inner ends thereof a rectangular picture or mat area, said body being rectilinearly folded between the inner extremities of consecutive slits to define between said creases and the roots of said flaps the respective front areas of the picture frame, a relatively stiff backing sheet secured to the rear face of said body and of area no greater than that of said picture or mat forming portion, free of the latter at a substantial area inward from the periphery thereof, to serve as a cleat for releasably retaining the flaps tucked in position thereunder when the frame is set up for use.

3. The combination recited in claim 2 in which two opposed flaps have intumed end tabs to engage the outer edges of the frame at the inner sides thereof and thereby to define the thickness of the frame, the remaining two flaps retaining said tab flaps in position when tucked under the backing sheet.

4. A cardboard framed picture construction comprising a unitary blank generally rectangular in form having generally rectangular flaps protruding from the lengths of the respective sides thereof, the edges of neighboring flaps extending at right angles to each other from the respective corners of the rectangular body and said body being diagonally slit inward from each corner, the inner ends of said slits defining the four corners of the rectangular picture or mat, each of said flaps having two parallel fold lines, the inner of which is at the corresponding edge of the rectangular body and defines the forward outer edge of the frame and the other fold the corresponding rear edge of the frame, a relatively stiff backing sheet attached at regions remote from the edges thereof to the rear of the picture or mat forming portion, said backing sheet serving as a cleat releasably to retain the free edges of the respective flaps in position between the backing sheet and the picture carrying area, said edges that are at right angles to each other in the blank, abutting when the frame is set up to define the corners thereof.

5. The combination recited in claim 4 in which two opposed flaps are each provided with intumed tabs for edge contact with the inside of the frame at the outer edge thereof, thereby defining the thickness of the frame, the remaining flaps being trapezoidal for convenience in insertion under the backing sheet after the tab carrying flaps have thus been inserted.

6. A flat structure that admits of being stacked and that can readily be set up as a framed picture, said structure comprising a cardboard blank having a rectangular body and flaps unitary therewith extending the lengths of the respective sides of said body, said blank being slit inward from the respective corners of the body, the inner edges of said slits defining the four corners of the picture or mat, said blank having

5

creases in the outer face thereof connecting the inner ends of said slits and having further creases in the underface thereof along the edges of said body, defining the roots of said flaps, further creases parallel to the latter creases along the lengths of said flaps to define the thickness of the frame, two opposed flaps having end tabs with creases on the underface thereof, said end tabs being of height somewhat less than the distance between the two creases of the respective flap, the edges of the tabs at the respective corners of the rectangular body extending at right angles to each other, and a backing sheet of stiffer material bonded to the rear face of the mat portion of the blank and of dimensions no greater than said mat portion, the bordering area of said backing sheet being free relative to the mat.

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6

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