Jan. 17, 1967 F. L. JAHN 3,298,124

DISPLAY DEVICES

Filed April 20, 1966 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

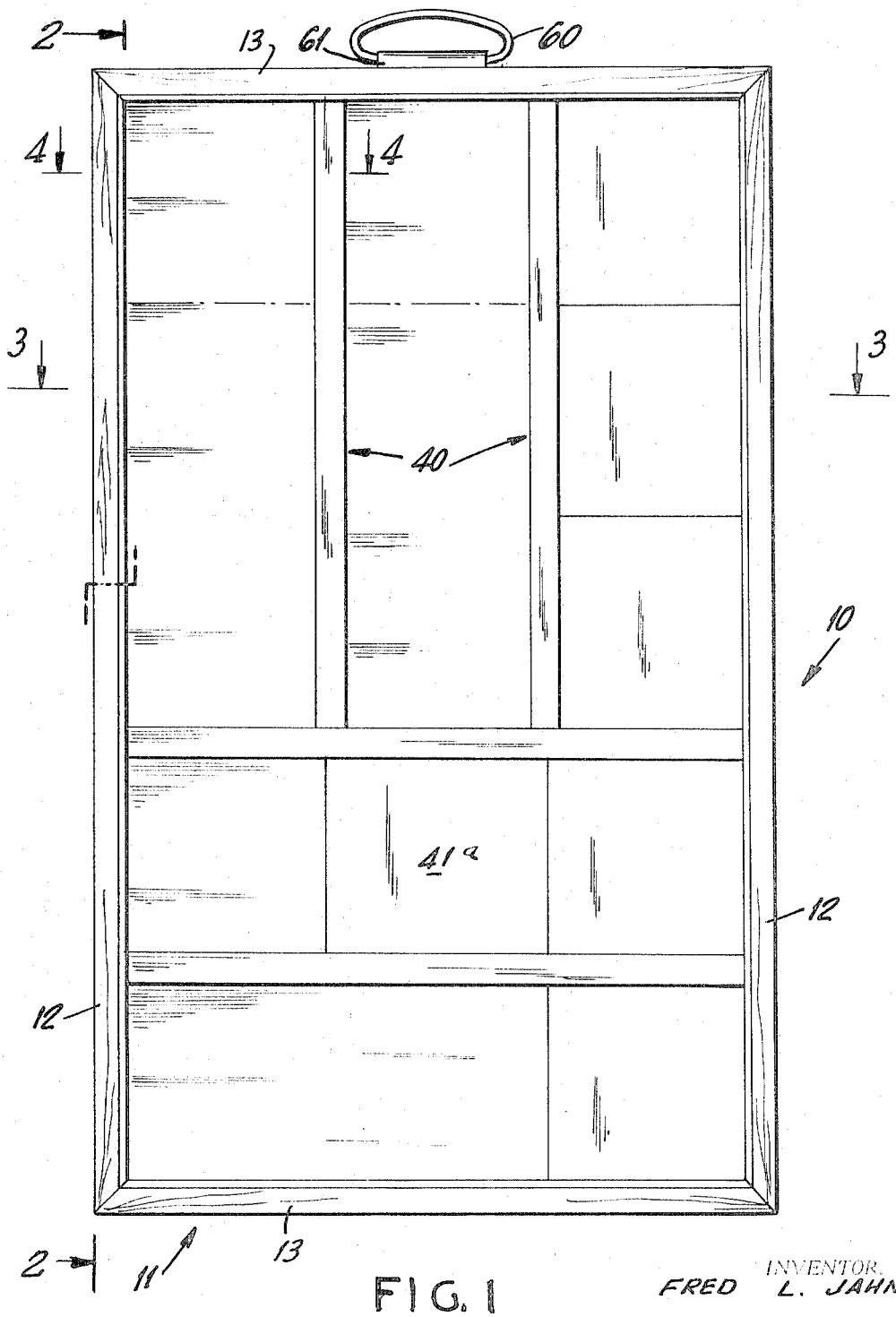


FIG. 1

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Filed April 20, 1966 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

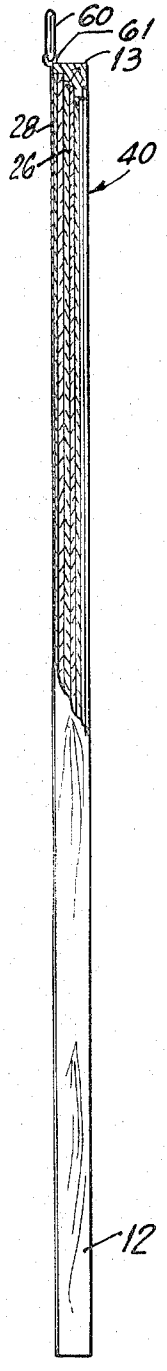


FIG. 2

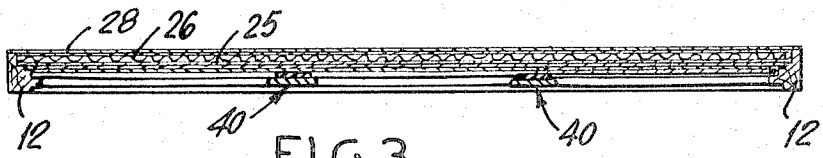


FIG. 3

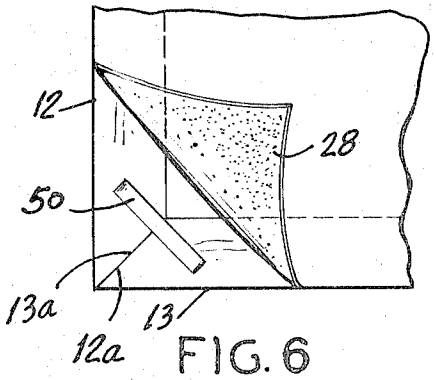


FIG. 6

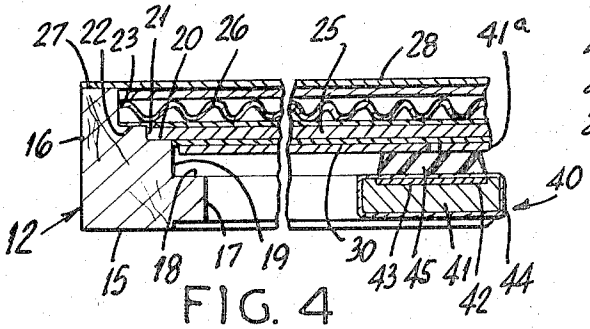


FIG. 4

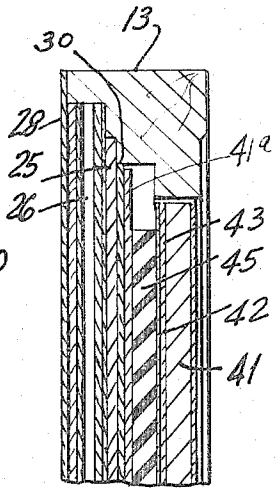


FIG. 5

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DISPLAY DEVICES

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9 Claims. (Cl. 40—156)

This invention relates to photograph display devices. It is particularly directed to a display device comprising a backing member and means for displaying photographs, such as snapshots, on variable divided areas of said backing member.

An object of this invention is to provide a display device of the character described, in which a backing member has an iron sheet incorporated therein and in which elongated magnetic members are held on the backing member by magnetic attraction and may be arranged in such a way as to provide variable areas for receiving the photographs and with said magnetic members serving to hold the photographs in place on the backing member.

A further object of this invention is to provide a device of the character described, in which the backing member is provided with a frame at the perimeter thereof, and in which the frame and the strips provide guide grooves into which the edges of the photographs may project.

Another object of this invention is to provide in a device of the character described, flexible magnetic strips which won't break if dropped, which are less costly than rigid magnets, which will not warp, which are light, and in which the magnetic material comprises a pliable rubber-like material impregnated with fine magnetic particles, and in which the pliable magnetic material contacts the photographs so as not to damage them. If the back board becomes warped, these strips will yield to the shape of the back board so as to provide good contact for the photographs.

A further object of this invention is to provide a display device of the character described comprising elongated magnetic members in which the pliable magnetic material is backed up by an iron strip, to increase the ability of the magnetic material to act as a magnet.

A further object of this invention is to provide a display device of the character described, in which the elongated magnetic members are all of the same length and may be arranged on the back member to provide a plurality of areas of the same dimension to receive photographs, some areas extending vertically and others transversely, and said magnetic members being movable to different positions on the back board and easily removable or applied, and in which said members are retained in position by magnetic attraction of the magnetic material to the iron sheet in the back member.

Yet a further object of this invention is to provide in a display device of the character described, a backing member in which the rectangular frame is provided with stepped shoulders to receive a sheet of corrugated cardboard and the iron sheet, and in which the rear of the cardboard and the front of the iron sheet are covered by decorative sheet material.

Yet another object of this invention is to provide a strong, durable and rugged display device of the character described, which shall be relatively inexpensive to manufacture, attractive in appearance, easy to manipulate, which has provision for hanging the same on a wall, and which shall yet be practical and efficient to a high degree in use.

Other objects of this invention will in part be obvious and in part hereinafter pointed out.

The invention accordingly consists in the features of construction, combination of elements, and arrangement of parts, which will be exemplified in the construction

hereinafter described, and of which the scope of invention will be indicated in the following claims.

In the accompanying drawings in which is shown an illustrative embodiment of this invention,

FIG. 1 is a front view of a display device embodying the invention;

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 2—2 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 3—3 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is an enlarged view of a portion of the structure shown in FIG. 3;

FIG. 5 is a partial enlarged view of the structure shown in FIG. 2; and

FIG. 6 is a rear view of one corner of the device with the decorative back sheet partially pulled back.

Referring now in detail to the drawing, **10** designates a display device embodying the invention. The same comprises a frame **11** having side members **12** interconnected by top and bottom members **13**. Members **12** and **13** are of similar transverse cross-section. Each of frame members **12** has a front face **15** and an outer side face **16**. Each of side members **12** has an inwardly extending bead or flange **17** formed with a rear surface **18**. At one end of the rear surface **18**, is a shoulder surface **19** perpendicular to surface **15**. Extending outwardly from the rear end of surface **19**, is a surface **20** extending toward surface **16** and parallel to surface **15**. Extending rearwardly from surface **20**, is a surface **21** at right angles to the surface **20**. Extending outwardly from the rear end of surface **21**, is a surface **22** parallel to surface **15** and at right angles to surface **16**. At the right end of surface **22** is a surface **23**. Surfaces **21** and **23** form abutment surfaces, whereas, surfaces **20** and **22** form shoulders for the purpose hereinafter appearing.

Mounted within the frame and contacting the shoulder **20** of the four members **12** and **13** is a rectangular sheet **25** of iron, such as mill tin black iron. The edges of sheet **25** contact the abutment surface **21**. The height of the surface **21** is substantially equal to the thickness of the plate **25**.

Mounted on the shoulders **22** of the members **12** and **13**, is a rectangular corrugated cardboard sheet member **26** substantially abutting the surfaces **23** and contacting the rear of the plate **25**. The cardboard **26** may be held in place by any suitable fastening means or by means of glue. The rear of the corrugated cardboard member **26** as well as the rear surfaces **27** of members **12** and **13** are covered by a decorative sheet **28** of paper, plastic, bookbinder's cloth or any other suitable thin flexible sheet material. The sheet **28** may be applied by means of glue or any other suitable manner. Also the front surface of iron plate **25** is covered by sheet **30** of paper, plastic, bookbinder's cloth or any other suitable thin flexible sheet material. The sheet **30** extends to the surface **19** of the frame members **11** and **12**.

The area inside the frame **11** may be divided into various areas by a plurality of similar elongated straight magnetic members **40**, which will also act to hold down photographs **41***a* on sheet **30**. Each member **40** comprises an elongated board, stick or strip **41** of wood or like material. Contacting the inner surface **42** of the strip **41**, is a thin iron strip or plate **43**. This strip **43** may also be made of mill tin black iron. A strip **44** of decorative paper, plastic or bookbinder's cloth may be wrapped around the strips **41**, **43** and glued or otherwise adhered thereto.

Cemented to the inner side of the wrapper **44** is an elongated magnetic strip or bar **45**. This material of which strip **45** is made may comprise fine ferrite particles impregnated in pliable plastic or rubber-like material. Polyethylene plastic may be used for this purpose. The

ferrite is treated to provide a magnetic field or permanent magnet.

The proportions of the frame are such that the inner area within the frame has a ratio of 5 to 3, that is, 5 in length to 3 in width. Thus three vertically extending areas and two horizontally extending areas, of all the same dimension, may be formed with four magnetic members **40**. Each area may receive three square photographs or snapshots **41***a*. The edges of the photographs which are toward the frame members **12** or **13**, may extend in back of the flanges **17**. The edges of the photographs or snapshots which confront the magnetic members **40**, may underlie the magnetic flexible or pliable strips **45** and hence are masked by the magnetic members **40**. Members **40** won't break if dropped, and are less costly than rigid magnetic bars such as "Alnico" or ceramic magnets. Members **40** are straight, whereas "Alnico" or ceramic magnets will warp when made in longer lengths. The present members **40** weigh less, and the pliability and flexibility and softness of the magnetic strips **45** won't damage the photographs. Furthermore, members **40** are flexible and if the back board is warped, the said members will better conform to the back board so as to better remain in contact with the photographs. It will be noted, furthermore, that the iron strip or bar **43** increases the ability of the strips **40** to act as a magnet.

Photographs of different sizes may be accommodated. The strips are easily removed and applied and they may be arranged in different manner from that shown. For example, four strips may be used equally spaced apart and disposed transversely relative to the frame members **12**. Also, one or more of the strips may be omitted to provide areas of larger size to accommodate larger photographs.

It will be seen that the strip of wood **41** is wider than the strip of the pliable magnetic material **45**. The wood strip extends beyond the side edges of the strip **45**. Thus, a photograph may be engaged beneath the guide portions of the wrapped wood strip. The flanges **17** may be integrally formed with the frame members **12** and **13** or may be separate strips glued or otherwise attached to the frame members. It will be noted, that the ends of members **12** and **13** are diagonally cut, as at **12***a*, **13***a* and the meeting ends of said members are interconnected by fasteners or staples **50**, as shown in FIG. 6.

A metal ring or loop **60** is threaded though a flexible loop **61** attached to the rear central upper end of the backing member so that the display device may be hung on a wall.

It will thus be seen that there is provided an apparatus in which the several objects of this invention are achieved, and which is well adapted to meet the conditions of practical use.

As possible embodiments might be made of the above invention, and as various changes might be made in the embodiment above set forth, it is to be understood that all matter herein set forth or shown in the accompanying drawings, is to be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

I claim:

1. A display device comprising a rectangular backing member of greater length than width, and including an iron plate, a frame about the perimeter of said backing member extending forwardly beyond the front face of said backing member and a plurality of elongated magnetic members of substantially equal length, each removably mounted on and contacting the front side of said backing member throughout its length and held inside of said frame and against said backing member by magnetic attraction the length of each magnetic member being substantially equal to the width of said backing member and the length of said backing member being such that said magnetic members can be arranged on said backing member to divide the area of said backing member, inside said frame, into a plurality of substantially equal smaller areas, with at least one of said magnetic members being arranged at right angles to another magnetic member, with none crossing each other.

2. The combination of claim **1**, each magnetic member comprising a strip of stiff flexible material and a strip of pliable rubber-like magnetic material on one face of the first strip and coextensive therewith, with said pliable strip contacting said backing member and said stiff strip spaced from and parallel to said backing member.

3. The combination of claim **2**, said pliable material comprising a rubber-like material impregnated with permanently magnetic fine iron particles.

4. The combination of claim **1**, said backing member comprising a cardboard backing for said iron plate, and said frame having stepped shoulders to selectively receive said plate and cardboard member.

5. The combination of claim **4**, said frame having flanges extending inwardly and spaced away from said iron plate.

6. The combination of claim **4**, a decorative sheet cover for the front of the iron plate and a decorative sheet cover for the rear of said cardboard member and the rear of said frame.

7. The combination of claim **2**, and a strip of iron contacting said strip of stiff flexible material.

8. The combination of claim **7**, and a sheet wrapped about said stiff strip and iron strip.

9. The combination of claim **2**, said stiff strip being wider than said pliable strip and extending beyond both sides of said pliable strip.

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