United States Patent

Dash

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[54] PACKAGE FOR SHEET MATERIAL ARTICLES

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[73] Assignee: **American Artists Group, Inc.**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** .....**206/45.31**, 40/312, 206/46 SY, 206/63, 206/DIG. 27, 206/DIG. 29, 229/44 R

[51] **Int. Cl.** **B65d 5/66**, B65d 25/00

[58] **Field of Search** .....40/312; 206/45.31, 45.34, 46 CT, 206/46 SY, 63, DIG. 22, DIG. 27, DIG. 29; 220/31 S; 229/44 R, 44 CB

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

An article-holding device of the type used to hold sheet material articles of purposes such as storage, display or the like. The device includes a container in which a plurality of the articles are accommodated. The sheet material articles include greeting cards and envelopes therefor, in stacked relationship, with the cards and envelopes positioned in two distinct sets. The container has an open top normally closed by a transparent lid which is seated on the container. A hinge consisting in its entirety of a flexible sheet material connects the lid to the container for swinging movement with respect thereto between positions covering and uncovering the open top of the container. This hinge has imprinted thereon a replica of the envelopes positioned beneath the set of greeting cards in the container. In this manner, while a viewer can see the type of cards through the transparent lid, he will also be able to ascertain the nature of the envelopes.

5 Claims, 3 Drawing Figures

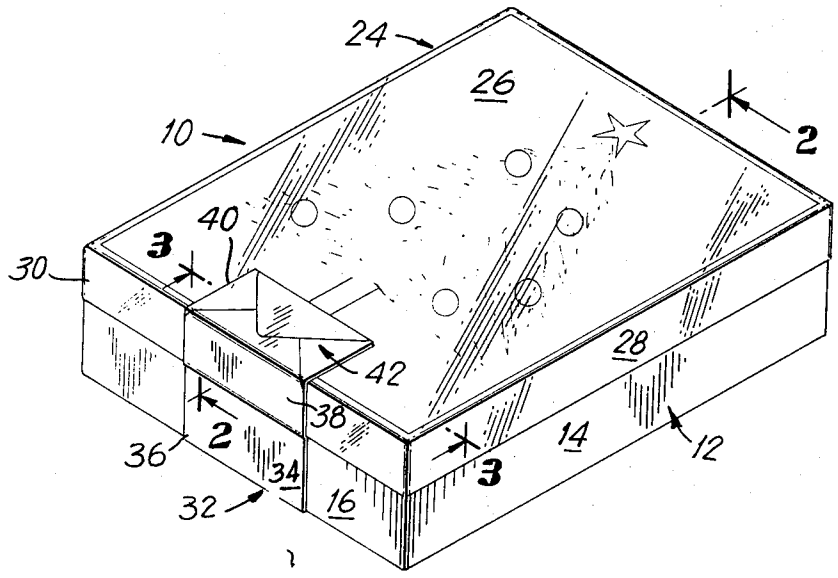


FIG. 1

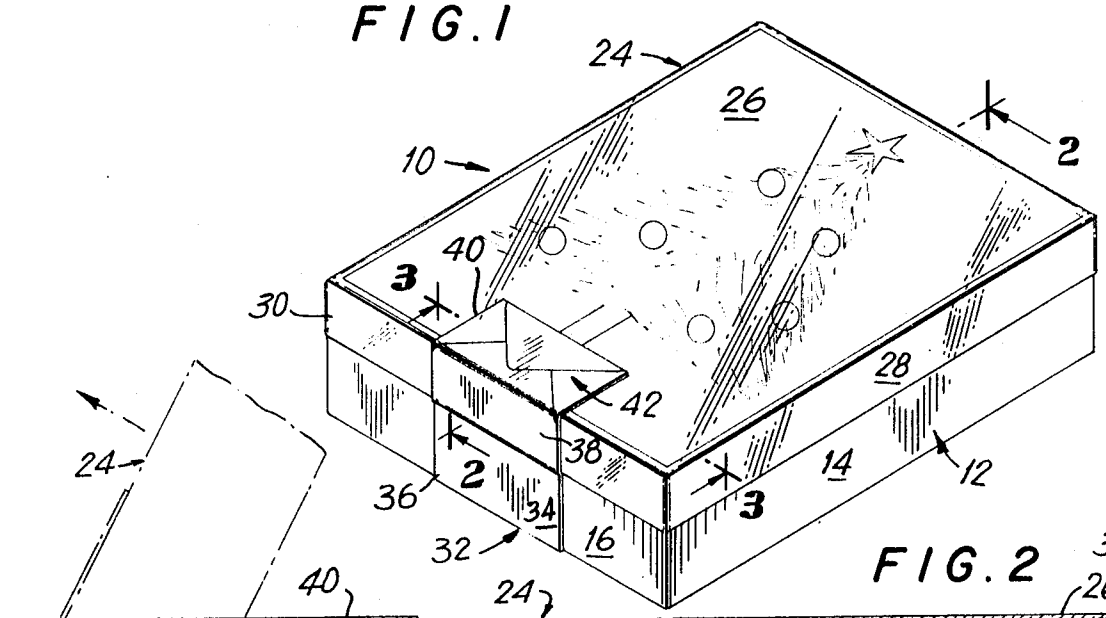


FIG. 2

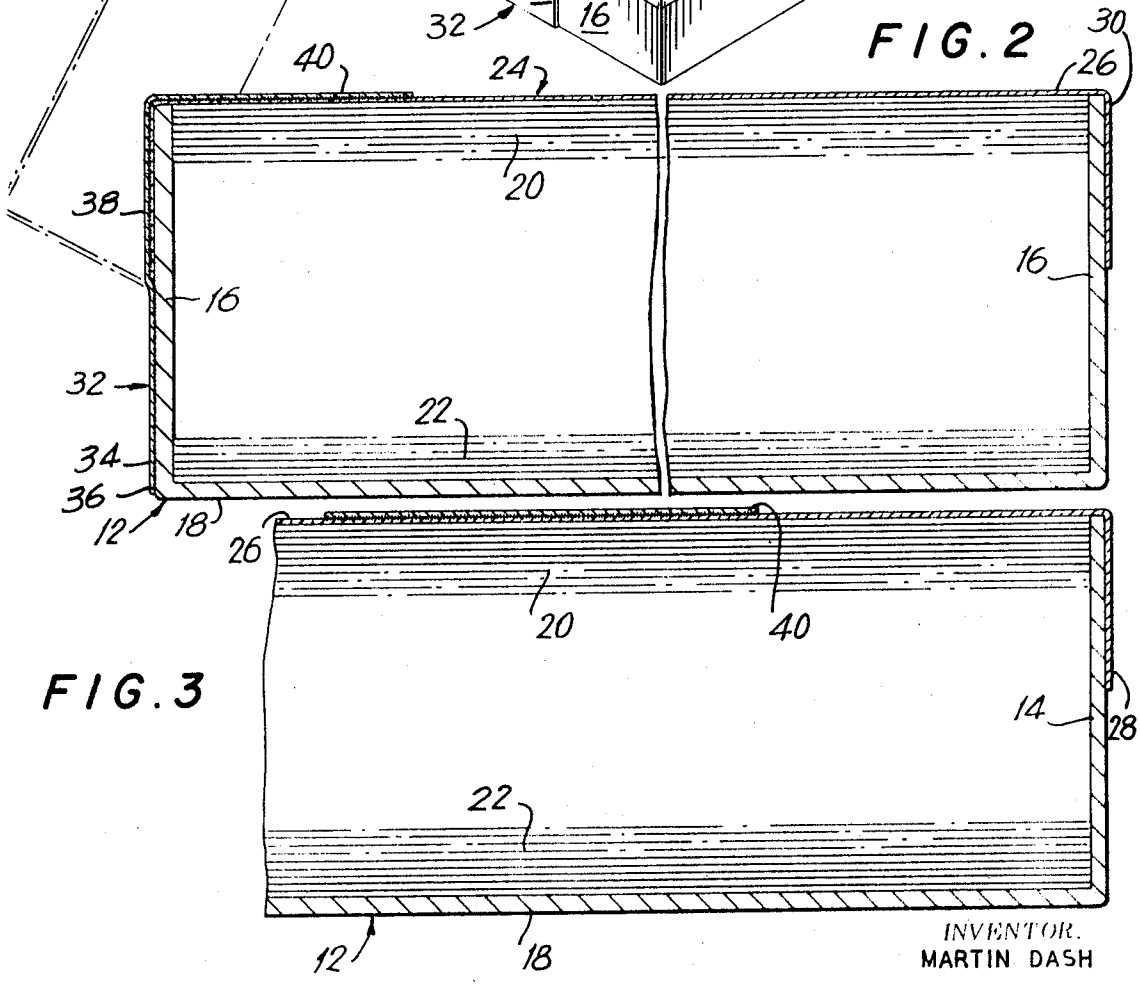


FIG. 3

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PACKAGE FOR SHEET MATERIAL ARTICLES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to article-holding devices.

Thus, the present invention relates to devices for holding articles either for purposes of storage, for purposes of display, or the like.

For example, it is conventional to situate articles such as Christmas cards or other decorative cards, together with their envelopes, within a suitable container which normally is covered by a lid. This lid may be transparent so that the articles within the container are visible through the lid. However, when a prospective purchaser, for example, sees a card such as a Christmas card through the lid, the nature of the envelope is not apparent because it is covered by the card. The result is that a prospective purchaser will disturb the contents in the container, upsetting the order in which the articles are stored therein, and perhaps misplacing or losing the envelopes and creating difficulties with respect to matching the proper envelopes to the proper cards.

In addition, when the lid of a given container is removed therefrom, it can easily become lost since it is usually placed to the side and can be covered by other articles, or it may fall on the floor and be swept away. It may also, be placed on an incorrect container.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is accordingly a primary object of the invention to provide a device of the above general type which will avoid the above drawbacks.

In particular, it is an object of the present invention to provide for a device of the above type a construction which will prevent the lid from becoming lost from the container which it normally covers.

In particular, it is an object of the present invention to provide a construction of this type which is exceedingly simple and inexpensive and which at the same time hardly increases the space occupied by the device.

Furthermore, it is an object of the invention to provide for a device of this type a construction which will enable a viewer of the device to see from the exterior thereof the nature of the contents of the container even though these contents are not visible, as through a transparent lid.

According to the invention the device includes a container for the articles, this container having an open top. A lid has a closed position seated on the container to close the open top thereof, and of course this lid can move from its closed position to an open position uncovering the open top of the container. A hinge means of the invention connects the lid to the container for swinging movement with respect thereto between the closed and open positions of the lid. This particular hinge means of the invention has a construction according to which it consists in its entirety of a flexible sheet material. Thus, the hinge means of the invention preferably takes the form of a section of sheet material such as paper which adheres both to the lid and to the container so as to connect the lid to the container for swinging movement with respect thereto. Moreover this hinge means can have imprinted thereon a replica of an envelope disclosing the nature and the color thereof, for example, so that even if such envelope is not visible, as through the transparent lid of the container, nevertheless the nature of the envelope is apparent from the exterior of the container, thus avoiding the requirement of disturbing the contents in order to determine the nature of the envelopes.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

The invention is illustrated by way of example in the accompanying drawings which form part of this application and in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective illustration of a device according to the invention;

FIG. 2 is a longitudinal sectional elevation, taken along line 2—2 of FIG. 1 in the direction of the arrows, and showing fragmentarily, at a scale which is enlarged as compared to FIG. 1, the details of the manner in which the lid is hinged to the container and swingable with respect thereto; and

FIG. 3 is a fragmentary transverse sectional elevation, at the same scale as FIG. 2, illustrating further details of the structure.

DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to the drawings, FIG. 1 shows a device 10 having the structure of the invention. This device includes a container 12 which may, for example, be any suitable box made of cardboard or other relatively heavy sheet material. This container 12 is of a generally rectangular configuration and it has an open top. Thus, the container 12 has side walls 14 and end walls 16 which are interconnected at their ends and all of which extend upwardly from a bottom wall 18. In this way a container 12 having an open top is provided.

This container can accommodate articles such as an upper stack of Christmas cards 20 situated over a lower stack of envelopes 22.

The container 12 is normally closed by a lid 24. This lid 24 has a top wall 26 from which side walls 28 and end walls 30 depend into overlapping relation with the exterior surfaces of the side walls 14 and end walls 16 of the container 12, as is apparent from the drawings. This is the closed position of the lid 24, and in its closed position it covers the open top of the container 12. In order to have access to the contents of the container 12 the lid 24 is removed from its closed position so as to uncover the open top of the container. The lid 24 may be made of a transparent sheet material so that a Christmas card 20 may be seen therethrough, as is apparent from FIG. 1 where a replica of a Christmas tree is indicated as being visible through the transparent lid 24.

According to the invention, a hinge means 32 interconnects the lid 24 with the container 12. This hinge means 32 provides between the lid 24 and the container 12 a connection enabling the lid 24 to be swung away from its closed position to an open position uncovering the open top of the container 12, as is apparent from the upper left portion of FIG. 2, and, of course, the lid can as easily be returned to its closed position.

According to the invention, this hinge means consists in its entirety of a flexible sheet material. In the illustrated example, it takes the form of a section of paper 34 having a front vertical region 36 adhering to the front end walls 16 as by being glued thereto. The upper region 38 of the sheet 34 is adhered to the exterior surface of the lid 24 to provide the hinge connection.

However, in addition, the sheet material section 34 has a portion 40 extending over the upper surface of the wall 26 of lid 24 and having imprinted thereon a designation 42 of the nature of the envelopes in the interior of the container. Thus, the designation 42 imprinted on the region 40 of the sheet 34 will have a color corresponding to the color of the envelopes and will indicate the construction of the flap at the rear of the envelope so as to enable any prospective purchaser to identify the envelopes 22 even though they are not visible. The region 40 of the sheet 34 is also adhered to the upper surface of the lid as by being glued thereto.

It will be noted that with this exceedingly simple structure of the invention, the sheet material which forms the entire hinge means not only provides an effective interconnection of the lid and container, preventing it from becoming lost without inhibiting the opening and closing of the container, but in addition, it hardly increases the volume occupied by the entire device so that storage of a number of the devices in a given space is not materially influenced with the hinge means 32 of the invention. Furthermore, by providing on the hinge means a designation such as the designation 42, the requirement of seeking out articles buried within the interior of the container is eliminated. Thus, with this construction of the invention

several problems are solved without detracting in any way from the manner in which the device is normally used.

What is claimed is:

1. A device for holding a plurality of articles for purposes such as storage or display, comprising a container for the plurality of articles, said container having an open top, a lid for closing the open top of the container, said lid being removably carried by said container, and hinge means connecting said lid to said container for swinging movement with respect thereto between an open position uncovering the top of the container and a closed position closing the top of the container, said hinge means consisting in its entirety of a flexible sheet material, so that while through said hinge means said lid is freely movable to and from a position closing the container at the same time said lid will not become separated from said container, said plurality of articles being positioned in a stack in said container and including at least a first and second set of different sheet material articles, said first set of articles having indicia imprinted thereon, said lid being made of a transparent sheet material, at least one sheet material article of said first set being visible through said lid, the sheet material of said hinge means having imprinted thereon a replica of a sheet material article of said second set situated within the container but not visible through said lid so that the nature of the second set of articles which cannot be seen can be determined by viewing said hinge means.

2. The combination of claim 1 and wherein said hinge means is in the form of a strip of flexible sheet material adhering to the lid and to the container.

3. The combination of claim 2 and wherein said hinge is made of paper.

4. A device as recited in claim 1 and wherein the sheet material of said hinge means is in the form of a section of paper adhering to the lid and container and having a portion extending over an upper surface of said lid when the latter is in its closed position, said portion of said sheet material of said hinge means having thereon said replica of the second set of sheet material articles in the interior of the container.

5. A device as recited in claim 1, said first set of sheet material articles being Christmas cards and s said second set of sheet material articles being envelopes therefor.

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