June 15, 1965 M. C. MILLER ETAL 3,188,760

VIEWER FOR FLOOR AND CEILING TILE OR OTHER COVERING

Filed March 20, 1962 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

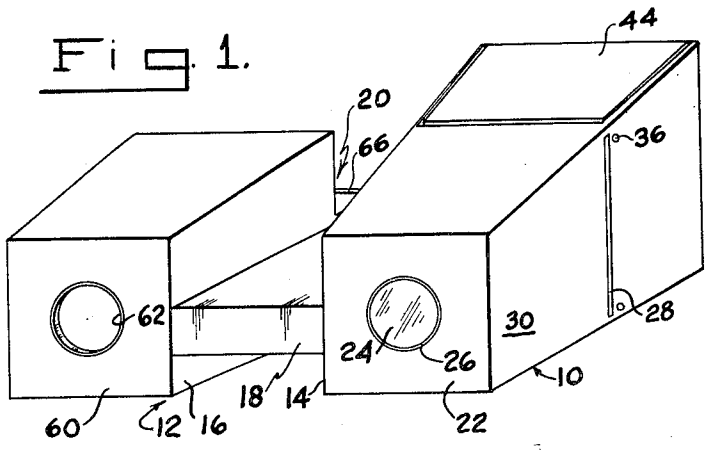
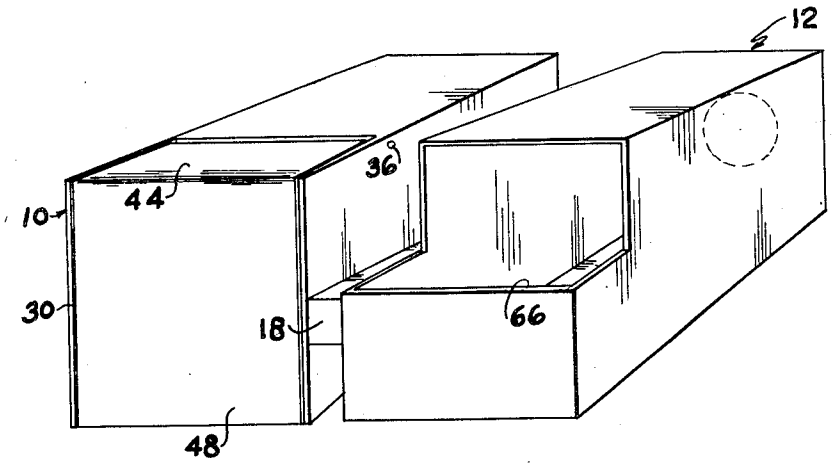


Fig. 2.



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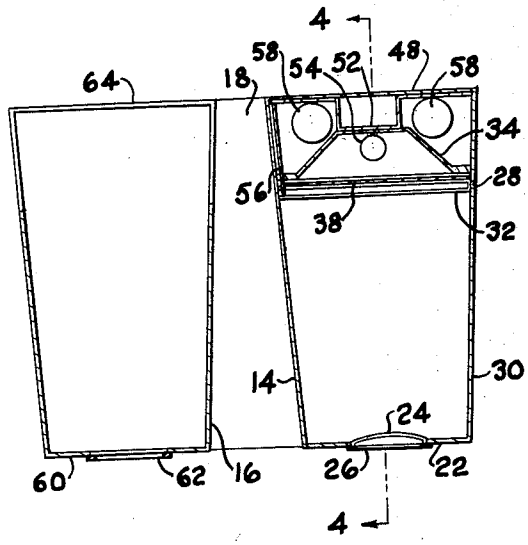


Fig. 3.

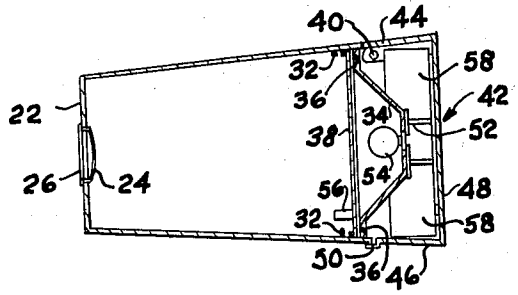


Fig. 4.

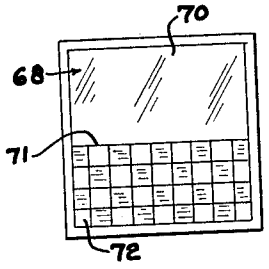


Fig. 5.

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VIEWER FOR FLOOR AND CEILING TILE OR OTHER COVERING

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2 Claims. (Cl. 40—63)

This invention relates to viewers; more particularly, it relates to a slide viewer in which film slides of wall coverings such as floor, ceiling, or side wall coverings may be used to illustrate how such coverings would appear in relation to the covering of an adjacent wall when installed in an existing room. The term "wall," as used herein, embraces floors and ceilings as well as side walls of a room.

When buying floor, ceiling, or other wall covering material, such as tile, carpeting, planks, wall paper, etc., it is difficult to visualize from small samples of the material how it would appear when installed on a given surface in an existing room, in relation to the appearance of an existing surface which the given surface adjoins or intersects. Even when samples are compared with existing walls, it is difficult to determine how a large expanse of the material would appear. It would be desirable, therefore, to be able to view realistically and compare various types of colors and designs of covering material in their intended surroundings.

It is an object of the present invention, therefore, to provide a device which will show realistically, without a requirement for the use of large samples, how such materials would appear, with respect to their surrounding surfaces when installed on a given wall surface in an existing room.

Another object of the invention is to provide a viewer which is simple in construction and economical to manufacture.

Briefly, the invention comprises a film slide viewer having two chambers, one of which is similar to the usual viewer, that is, having means for receiving a slide, a light source, and a lens for viewing the slide. The other chamber is provided with an eyehole, but no lens, and portions of the chamber are cut away to permit the operator to see the covering of an existing wall of the room in which the new floor, ceiling, or other wall covering is to be installed. Since one eye views the slide of the covering material and the other eye views the existing wall covering against which the comparison is to be made the views will appear to be superimposed, and it will appear that the covering material is installed in place on the particular wall of the room to which the new covering material is to be applied.

The nature of the invention will be more fully understood and other objects may become apparent, from the following detailed description, considered in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the viewer of the present invention, showing the front side thereof;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the viewer, showing the back thereof;

FIG. 3 is a horizontal sectional view taken along the length of the viewer;

FIG. 4 is a sectional view taken on line 4—4 of FIG. 3; and

FIG. 5 is a representation of a slide which may be used with the viewer of the present invention.

Referring to FIGS. 1–4 of the drawing, two viewer sections or chambers **10** and **12** of generally rectangular cross section are connected at side walls **14** and **16** thereof

by any suitable means to opposite sides of an elongated support **18** to form a slide viewer unit **20**. The chamber **10** is provided with a front wall **22** in which a lens **24**, shown as a double convex lens, is mounted in an eyehole **26**. A vertical slot **28** is provided in the side wall **30** opposite the side wall **14** for receiving a film slide. The slot **28** extends substantially the full height of the wall **30** and is spaced from the lens **24** a distance equal to the focal length of the lens. Extending across the interior surfaces of the bottom and top walls of the viewer section **10** are guide tracks **32** positioned on opposite sides of the slot **28** and adapted to receive and hold a film slide in upright position. Spaced slightly from the slot **28** and guide tracks **32** is an opaque housing **34** secured to the side walls **14** and **30** by rivets **36** or some other suitable means. The housing **34** is trapezoidal in both horizontal and vertical cross section and is open at the front end thereof which is the larger end. The back of the housing is provided with an opening or aperture for receiving an electric light bulb. Held between the rearmost guide track **32** and the front edges of the housing **34** is a translucent plate **38** of plastic or glass separating the light source from the slide and serving to diffuse the light.

Pivotally mounted at **40** to the side walls **14** and **30** adjacent the connection of the housing **34** is a generally C-shaped closure member **42**, comprising upper and lower legs **44** and **46** connected to a back wall **48**. The upper and lower legs form a continuation of the upper and lower walls of the viewer section or chamber **10**. A projection **50** on the lower leg **46** resiliently engages the edge of the lower wall of chamber **10** to hold the closure member **42** in closed condition.

Mounted in the center of the inner surface of the back wall **48** by suitable means, such as screws or rivets, is a receptacle **52** for receiving an electric light bulb **54**. A resilient leaf switch **56**, mounted adjacent wall **14** in the path of the guide tracks **32**, is connected to the bulb **54** through batteries **58** by a suitable circuit, which is conventional and is not shown for purposes of clarity. It should be understood that a manually operated switch could be substituted for the slide actuated leaf switch **56**, or a lighting arrangement adapted to use house current could also be provided.

The viewer chamber **12** is provided with a front wall **60** having an eyehole **62** therein, but unlike the eyehole **26** of the viewer chamber **10**, no lens is provided in the eyehole **62**. Of course, a clear glass plate could be provided in eyehole **62**, if desired. Substantial portions of the upper, side, and back walls of the viewer chamber **12** are cutaway to permit a relatively large expanse of wall surface to be viewed through the eyehole **62**. The remaining back wall portion or mask **64** of viewer chamber **12** has a horizontal upper edge **66** lying in the same plane as the apparent upper edge of a film slide in the viewer chamber **10**. The size of the cutaway portion of viewer chamber **12** may vary according to the amount of wall surface it is desired to expose. In one embodiment of the viewer, however, the cutaway was proportioned so that 6 x 6 foot wall area was exposed at a distance of eight feet from the wall.

As illustrated in FIG. 5, a slide **68** of conventional dimensions may be used. The upper portion **70** of the slide is blacked out and is separated along a horizontal line **71** from the lower portion **72**, which bears a representation illustrating a floor or ceiling covering. The line of separation between the two portions of the slide is so located that it will correspond in height to the upper edge **66** of mask **64** when the slide is positioned in the viewer chamber **10**.

If it is desired to view a slide showing a floor covering, the operator inserts the slide **68** through the slot **28**, with the blackened portion **70** uppermost, until the edge of

the slide contacts the leaf switch **56**, which closes the light circuit to actuate the light bulb **54**. The viewer is tilted downwardly toward the baseboard of the room until the upper edge **66** of the mask **64** is aligned with the intersection of the wall and floor, so that the floor is blocked from view. The right eye of the operator will see the lowermost portion **72** of the slide **68**, while the left eye of the operator will see the wall surface beginning at the intersection of the floor and wall. Because the slide is positioned at the focal length of the lens **24**, the right eye will clearly see the floor covering depicted in the slide **68**, while the left eye will clearly see the wall surface of the room. The views of both eyes will become superimposed, and it will appear to the operator that the floor covering illustrated in the slide is installed on the floor of the room.

It is merely necessary to invert the viewer and to insert an appropriate slide if it is desired to view various ceiling coverings in their proposed environment. In this position, the mask **64** would prevent the ceiling from being viewed by the eye looking through eyehole **62**. In the same manner as described above in connection with the floor covering, the ceiling covering would appear to be installed in the room. In a similar manner, the appearance of a proposed side wall surface covering, depicted on portion **72** of the film slide, can be viewed in apparent adjacency to an existing floor or ceiling surface. For comparison of the proposed side wall surface with an existing floor surface, the viewer should be inverted; for comparison with an existing ceiling surface, it may be held top-side-up.

Instead of the partially blacked out slide **68**, illustrated in FIG. 5, a slide of a height equal to the portion **72** may be used. In order for the viewer to receive such a slide, it would merely be necessary to modify the viewer by lowering the upper wall of the viewer section **10** to accommodate the relatively low slide. It should be understood that the above described viewer chamber **12** need not take the form of the viewer chamber **10**, but may comprise any suitable means for partially blocking the vision so that the operator sees only the wall with one eye, and so that the film slide image appears to blend with the wall surface.

Obviously, many modifications of the present invention are possible in the light of the foregoing disclosure, and such modifications are intended to fall within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

What we claim is:

1. A slide viewer comprising a first-enclosed chamber, a lens in one end of the chamber, a slot in the chamber for receiving a film slide, a film slide bearing a representation disposed in the chamber, a second chamber connected to the first chamber, an eyehole in the end of the second chamber adjacent the lens of the first chamber, the other end of the second chamber being partially masked by a wall terminating in an edge extending substantially horizontally when the viewer is held in operating position by an operator, said representation having a substantially horizontal upper edge, the second chamber being open above the edge of the wall and the first chamber being closed to the view above the upper edge of the representation, said edge of the wall and the upper edge of the representation being substantially horizontally aligned so that the view seen through the eyehole of the second chamber appears to be vertically adjacent the slide representation seen through the lens of the first chamber.

2. A slide viewer as recited in claim **1**, including additionally a source of light in the first chamber to illuminate a slide therein.

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