Jan. 11, 1938. H. M. RILEY 2,105,008

DEVICE HAVING DECORATED TRANSPARENCIES

Filed Oct. 7, 1935 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

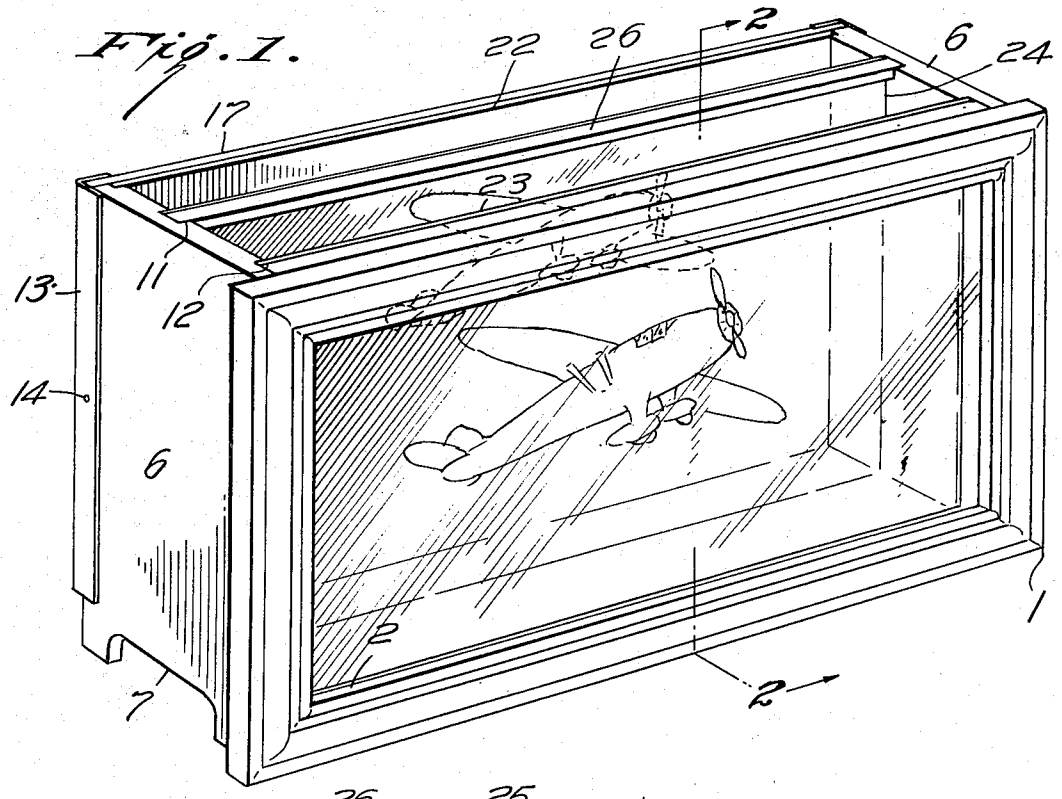



Fig. 2.

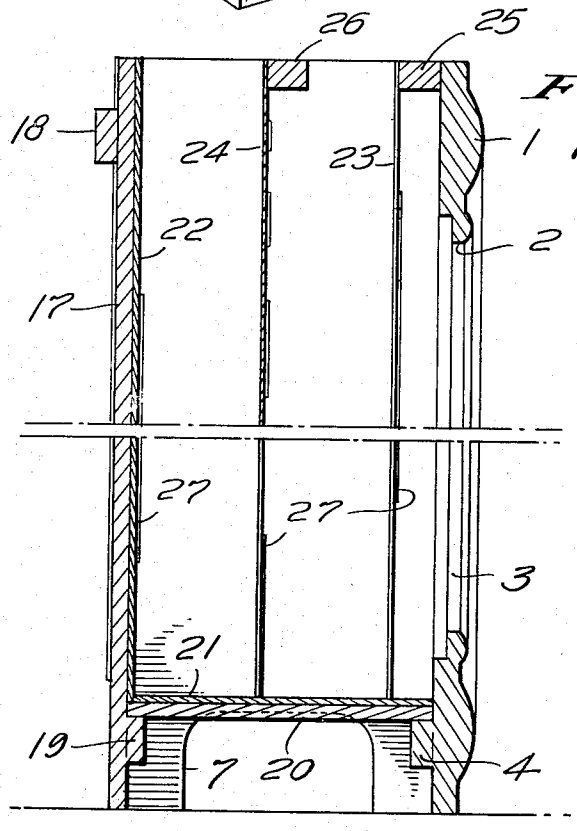
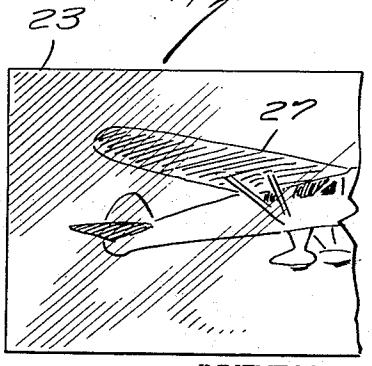



Fig. 5.




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Fig. 3.

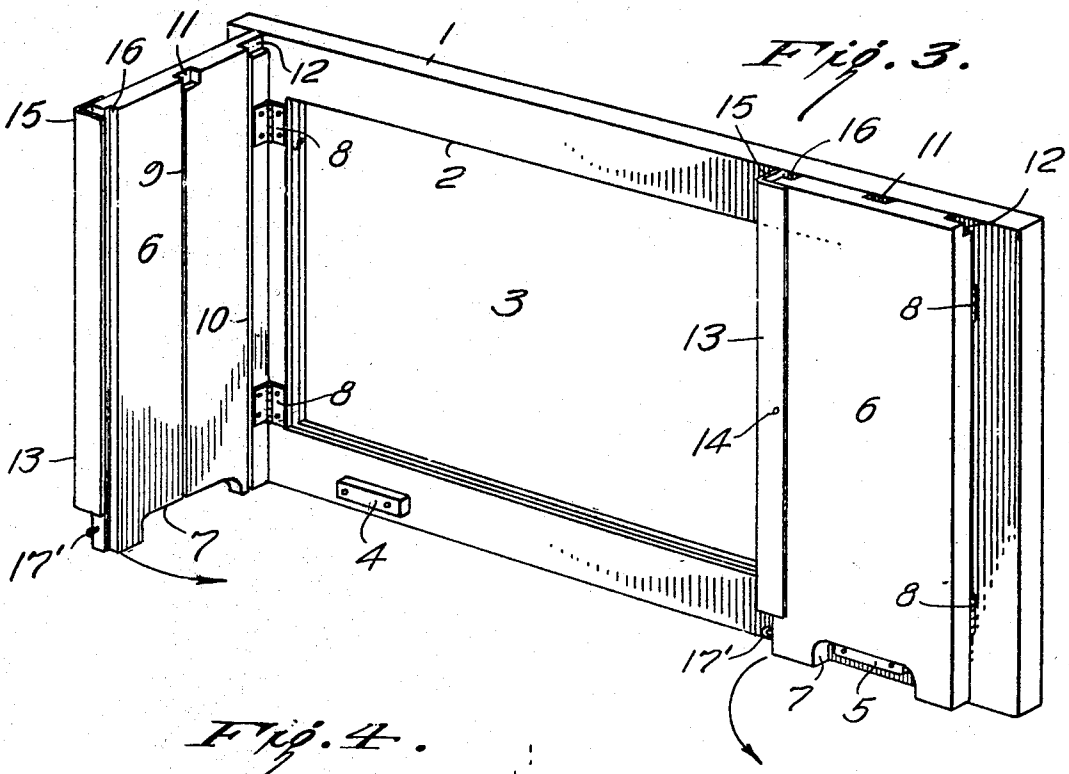
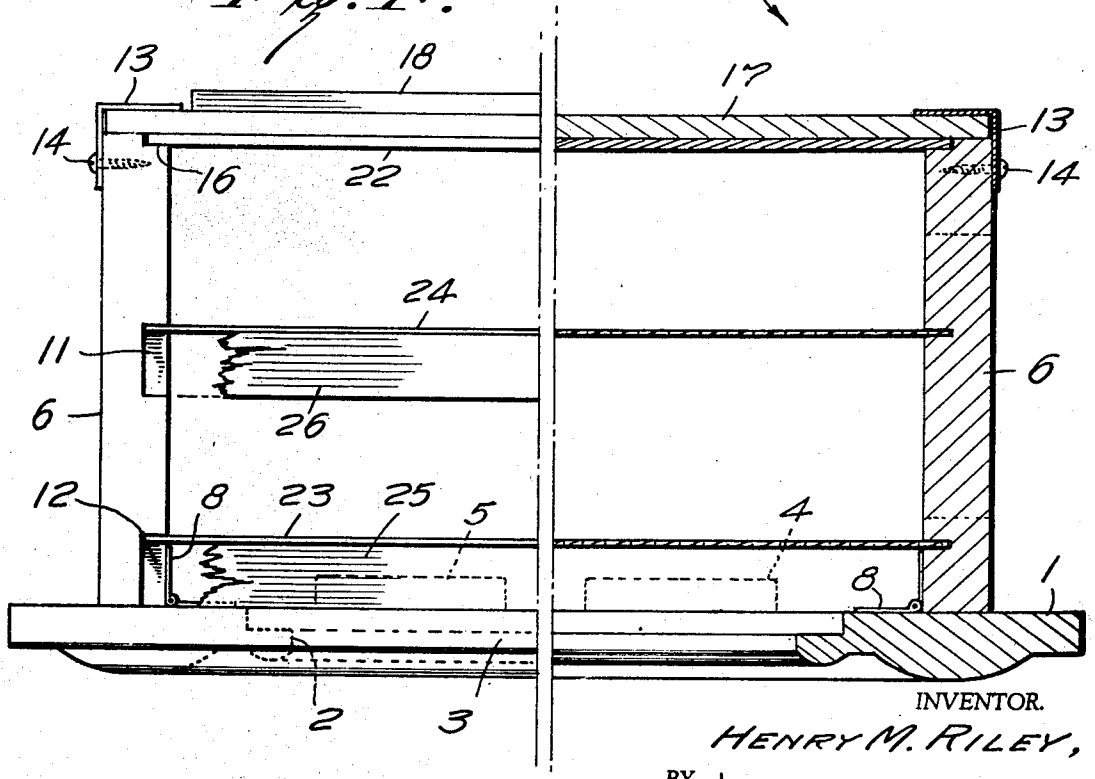



Fig. 4.




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2,105,008

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,105,008

## DEVICE HAVING DECORATED TRANSPARENCIES

Henry M. Riley, Manhasset, N. Y.

Application October 7, 1935, Serial No. 43,913

5 Claims. (Cl. 35—28)

This invention relates to display devices, more particularly to devices which may be used as toys, or in commercial work for advertising purposes.

It has been found highly desirable to provide games for children which require some ingenuity and work on their part in order to develop the creative instinct in them. There have been placed on the market a number of toys which will require such work on the part of the children and thus engage their attention. The present invention is intended to provide a toy of this character, having the advantage that the child may continue to use the same over a considerable period of time by merely changing certain elements of the structure, whereby a continuous source of amusement is provided.

The present invention also contemplates the commercial use of the subject matter for advertising and display purposes. A structure similar to that used as a toy is applicable in the same manner to the production of displays which may be changed at will, and thus constitute an advertising unit which may be employed over a long period of time with suitable variations as desired.

Primarily, my invention resides in the provision of a frame member or opening of any suitable size. The frame has a front opening and behind the same there is provided a plurality of relatively thin, transparent sheets spaced apart and substantially parallel to the opening. The area of the sheets is sufficient to practically fill the opening. On the transparent sheets there is secured, usually by cementing or gluing, various designs such as advertising matter, colored pictures, and the like, in such a manner that the various designs on the several transparent sheets are visible through the opening. This gives a combined effect in perspective and having substantial depth, and it is particularly attractive because it allows the placing of various figures in such positions as to appear off the ground, such as, aircraft, birds, figures in action, and the like. This allows a wide variety of changes in the complete set-up which gives a large field of use thereof.

Usually, there is also provided a background and a base piece which are decorated in any suitable manner to complete the setting. The designs appearing on the transparent sheets may be provided in any suitable manner. If desired, they may be painted on said sheets but, preferably, I provide paper or the like having such designs thereon, usually in colors. The user may cut from the paper whatever designs he wishes and may cement the same at the desired places on the transparent sheets to give a predetermined or desired effect. When the design is to be changed, the paper may be removed from the transparent sheets and new designs placed thereon. The background and the foreground are made removable and may be changed simultaneously with the said designs.

In the accompanying drawings, constituting a part hereof, and in which like reference characters indicate like parts,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of my invention;

Fig. 2 is a vertical cross-sectional view of said embodiment taken along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view, looking from the rear, of the frame of the front portion thereof showing the collapsible feature of the sides of the frame;

Fig. 4 is a plan view, partly in horizontal cross-section, of the embodiment shown in Fig. 1; and,

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary view of one of the transparent sheets, showing a design cemented thereon.

The front 1 of the frame has a central cut-out portion 2, providing an opening 3 therein. On the back thereof are stop members 4 and 5, near the bottom, to act as means for holding the bottom of the frame and the base piece in place. There are provided sides 6, having cut-out portions 7 at the lower ends thereof so that when closed, as shown on the right in Fig. 3, the stop members 4 and 5 will lie within such openings 7, thereby permitting storage of the device in flat and convenient form. The sides 6 are provided with hinges 8 whereby they are secured to the front 1 and they are provided with a plurality of vertical slots 9 and 10 for the introduction of transparent sheets. Said slots are enlarged, as shown at 11 and 12, to provide recesses in which the tops of said sheets may be securely held. Along the outer edges of sides 6, there are provided angle irons 13, secured by screws 14 and so placed that slots 15 are formed between said angles and said sides. Grooves 16, as more particularly shown in Fig. 3, are also provided at the edge of sides 6, and serve as means for holding the backdrop in place.

A back 17, having a reinforcing strip 18 along the outer upper edge thereof, and having stop member 19 along the inner edge at the bottom thereof, is slipped into place in slots 15 and rests on pins 17'. The bottom 20 of the frame is in-

serted and rests upon stop members 4, 5 and 19. A base piece 21 of suitable design and usually of decorated cardboard, is placed on the bottom 20. A similar decorated backdrop 22 appropos of the scene to be displayed, is slipped into the grooves 16 in front of back 17.

Transparent sheets 23 and 24, having strips 25 and 26 secured thereto, are slipped into slots 10 and 9, respectively, the strip 25 resting in recesses 12 and the strip 26 in recesses 11. The transparent sheets may be made of any desired material, such as cellulose acetate compositions, glass, regenerated cellulose, and various other known materials which are substantially transparent. A series of figures 27 may be provided on a single sheet of paper or on separate sheets of paper, said figures being cemented or pasted at desired points on sheets 23 and 24 to give the desired decorative effect. In a display which may be considered more or less permanent, such figures may be painted or produced directly upon sheets 23 and 24.

Although I have described my invention setting forth a single embodiment thereof, the invention is not limited thereto and it is susceptible of wide variations within the scope of the present invention. The embodiment shown herein has been made of collapsible form so that when not in use, or, when it is desired to transport the same the various parts may be separated, the sides folded in, and the whole assembly stored or packed in a small space. While such a structure is desirable, it is not essential to the principal objects of the invention and the frame may therefore be made in such form that is is more or less permanent after it is once set up.

The structure may be such that the transparent sheets may be inserted otherwise than as shown. For instance, openings may be provided in one or both of sides 6 and the sheets slipped into place laterally. Or, other means for inserting or holding the transparent sheets in place may be used. Various materials may be used in the several parts of the device; the frame may be of metallic or non-metallic materials, such as aluminum, wood, molded compositions and the like, and the decorative portions may be of paper, fabric, metal foil, combinations of different materials and in general of any substances capable of giving the decorative effects. The decorative effects may be printed in quantity or may be made individually to special order, and they may be in black and white or in colors.

The decorative figures 27 are usually pasted on so as to be easily removable and the transparent sheets cleaned and re-used with a new set of figures, whereby the principal parts of the device may be re-used indefinitely and new effects obtained. Considerable economies can thereby be effected as the cost of replacing the decorative characters is comparatively small and negligible in relation to the cost of the device.

Other effects may be combined with the device to enhance its attractiveness. This can be accomplished by introducing lighting arrangements either within the frame or outside thereof. In addition, mechanical means may be used to simulate motion, as means for circulating "snow", for blowing air through the device to cause fluttering of flags, etc., and for producing moving light effects such as clouds, rain, etc.

It will be obvious that the number of transparent sheets may be varied at will, and, also, the manner in which said sheets are held in the frame. The use of slots is desirable only because of its convenience, and other means may readily be used. The transparent sheets may be reinforced, particularly when they are thin and flexible, by suitable means as strips of various materials. If desired, perforations may be formed along the upper edges thereof, whereby they may be attached by the use of suitable hangers to rigid strips, such as 25 and 26. The base piece and background need not be of cardboard, but may be in other forms and, in fact, they may, for example, be embossed so that irregularities appear, as, for example, in the showing of mountains, rivers, buildings, and the like. In the claims, the term "substantially parallel" is intended to include also such constructions in which the transparent sheets are at various angles to the plane of the opening, the important consideration being the visibility thereof through said opening. These and other changes in the mechanical construction and in the details of my invention may be made within the spirit thereof, and my invention is not to be limited except by the character of the claims appended hereto.

What I claim is:

1. An exhibitor for pictures and the like comprising a frame having an opening in the front thereof, a plurality of spaced apart transparent sheets independently movable and held in said frame in a position substantially parallel to said opening, said sheets being placed a substantial distance behind said opening, the area of said sheets being sufficient to practically fill said opening, said sheets adapted to bear interchangeable indicia, decorated material having designs thereon cemented to said transparent sheets and constituting said indicia, whereby all of said sheets are visible through said opening.

2. An exhibitor for pictures and the like comprising a frame having an opening in the front thereof, a plurality of spaced apart transparent sheets independently movable and held in said frame in a position substantially parallel to said opening, said sheets being placed a substantial distance behind said opening, the area of said sheets being sufficient to practically fill said opening, the sides of said frame being provided with slots for holding said sheets, said sheets adapted to bear interchangeable indicia, decorated material having designs thereon cemented to said transparent sheets and constituting said indicia, whereby all of said sheets are visible through said opening.

3. An exhibitor for pictures and the like comprising a frame having an opening in the front thereof, a plurality of spaced apart transparent sheets independently movable and held in said frame in a position substantially parallel to said opening, said sheets being placed a substantial distance behind said opening, the area of said sheets being sufficient to practically fill said opening, said sheets adapted to bear interchangeable indicia, decorated sheets of paper having designs thereon cemented to said transparent sheets and constituting said indicia, whereby all of said sheets are visible through said opening.

4. An exhibitor for pictures and the like comprising a frame having an opening in the front thereof, a plurality of spaced apart transparent sheets independently movable and held in said frame in a position substantially parallel to said opening, said sheets being placed a substantial distance behind said opening, the area of said sheets being sufficient to practically fill said open-

ing, said sheets adapted to bear interchangeable indicia, decorated material having designs thereon cemented to said transparent sheets and constituting said indicia, whereby all of said sheets are visible through said opening and a design constituting a background in the back of said frame.

5. An exhibitor for pictures and the like comprising a frame having an opening in the front thereof, a plurality of spaced apart transparent sheets independently movable and held in said frame in a position substantially parallel to said opening, said sheets being placed a substantial distance behind said opening, the area of said sheets being sufficient to practically fill said opening, said sheets adapted to bear interchangeable indicia, decorated material having designs thereon cemented to said transparent sheets and constituting said indicia, whereby all of said sheets are visible through said opening and a design constituting a base-piece on the bottom of said frame.

HENRY M. RILEY.