July 5, 1966 W. J. ECKLES 3,259,270

COMBINED MOUNTER AND DISPENSER FOR PHOTO MOUNTING CORNERS

Filed Sept. 24, 1963

FIG. 1.

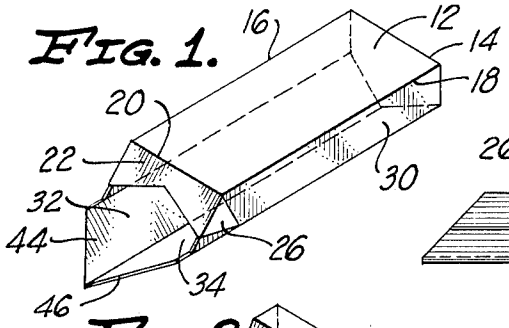


FIG. 2.

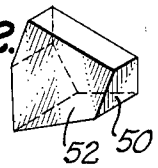


FIG. 3.

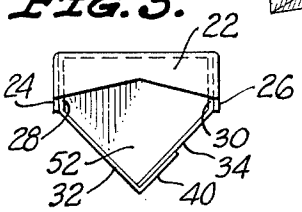


FIG. 4.

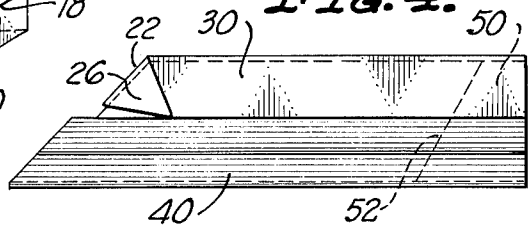


FIG. 5.

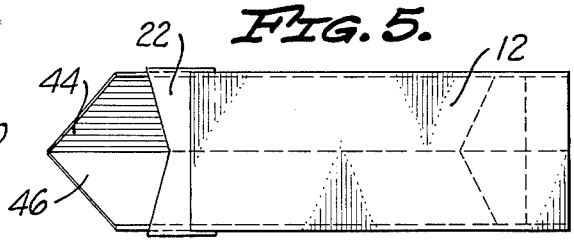


FIG. 6.

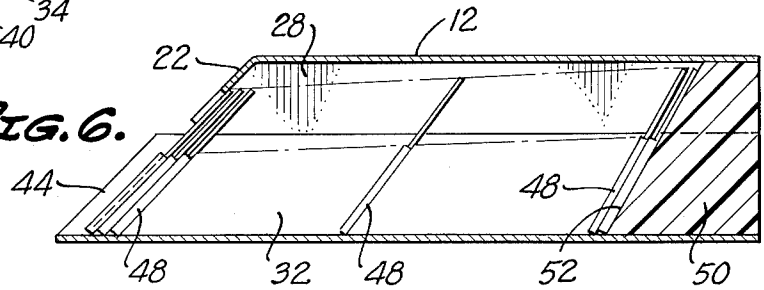


FIG. 7.

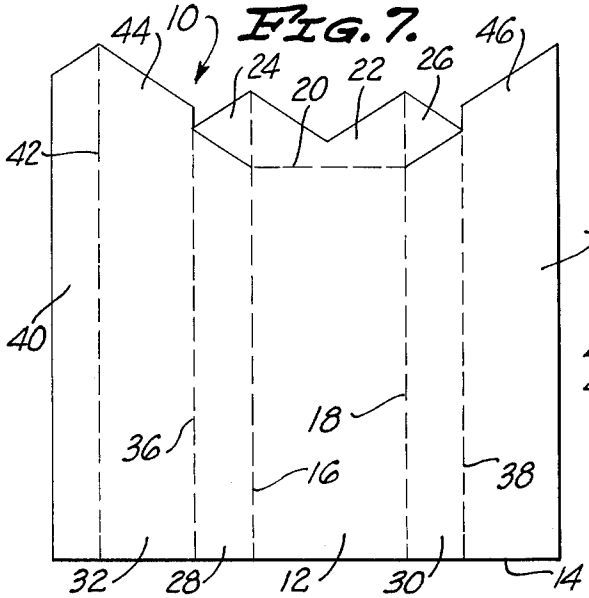
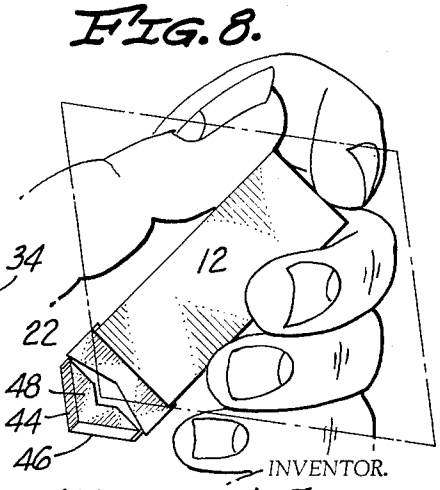


FIG. 8.



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3,259,270

Patented July 5, 1966

3,259,270

COMBINED MOUNTER AND DISPENSER FOR PHOTO MOUNTING CORNERS

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Filed Sept. 24, 1963, Ser. No. 311,038

3 Claims. (Cl. 221—1)

This application is directed to a packaging device which carries photo mounting corners from the manufacturer through the dealer to the ultimate consumer. The device holds the photo mounting corners in position while they are being mounted on a corner of a photograph and then dispenses them as mounted on the corner.

Photo mounting corners are inexpensive items of commerce which are widely used by the populace in mounting photographs in albums. Conventionally photo mounting corners are sold in boxes or envelopes, and when it is desired to mount a photograph, such mounting corners are dumped out on a table and picked up one at a time and mounted on the photo corners. Thereupon the adhesive on the corners is moistened and the corners are applied to a page of a photo album for a retention of the photo therein. It easily is seen that this system offers numerous disadvantages. When the mounting corners are dumped out on a table, they are at random and half of them are face down in an unuseable position. Of the remaining half, a substantial number are oriented in the incorrect position so that they must be rotated before they can be picked up and applied to a photo corner. Many of the corners are telescoped into each other causing much manual manipulation before they are useable. After the mounting of photos has been completed, all of the remaining photo corners must be collected and dumped back into the original receptacle for retention for future use. Much time is wasted in picking up, orienting, holding and returning to their receptacle the photo mounting corners in present day usage.

Accordingly it is an object of this invention to provide a combined mounter and dispenser for photo mounting corners which carries such photo mounting corners in an accessible position for immediate use.

It is another object of this invention to provide such a mounter and dispenser which holds photo mounting corners with sufficient rigidity that the combined mounter and dispenser can be used as a tool to mount the corner upon a photo in correct orientation thereon, and the mounter and dispenser then releases the corner while mounted upon the photo and immediately presents a new corner available for mounting.

It is another object of this invention to provide an economic combined mounter and dispenser for photo mounting corners so that photo mounting corners can be presented to the consumer in a more useful packaging without a substantial increase in cost to the consumer.

Other objects and advantages will become apparent upon the study of the following specification and upon reference to the attached drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 is an isometric view of the entire mounter and dispenser of this invention;

FIGURE 2 is an isometric view of the follower block used in this mounter and dispenser;

FIGURE 3 is a front elevation of the combined mounter and dispenser;

FIGURE 4 is a side elevation of the device of this invention;

FIGURE 5 is a top plan view of the device of this invention;

FIGURE 6 is a longitudinal cross section taken from top to bottom of the device of this invention;

FIGURE 7 is a plan view of the cardboard blank used in making this device; and

FIGURE 8 is a view showing the device of this invention in use.

As an aid to understanding this invention it can be stated in essentially summary form that it concerns the structure of a combined mounter and dispenser for carrying and mounting photo mounting corners, and dispensing photo mounting corners onto the corners of photos. The material from which this device is made may be either card stock as shown, or the device may be injection molded of suitable polymer composition material. The device is of suitable cross section and is hollow to receive the photo mounting corners in stacked relationship. However the right angle cross section of the device is not equal to the projected plan area of the photo mounting corner, but it is smaller than this projected plan area. Accordingly the device requires that the photo mounting corners lie at an angle with respect to the axis of the device. The dispensing end of the device has a stop which prevents the stack from issuing in gross therefrom, but has sufficient open area to permit a photo corner to be inserted into the photo mounting corner within the dispenser. Projecting surfaces engage the photo mounting corner while it is in this position and aid in stabilizing it and holding it while the corner of a photo is being inserted therein. The open configuration is such that after the corner is properly mounted on the photo the corner easily slips from the device. An angular faced follower block is provided to urge the corners forward so that one is always in accessible position for mounting.

A more detailed understanding of this invention will be had upon study of the following portion of this specification wherein the combined mounter and dispenser for photo mounting corners is described in detail with respect to the drawings.

A photo mounting corner is a device particularly adapted and designed for the mounting of photographs in albums. To accomplish this result, it is necessary for the mounting corner to grasp the photograph and to be secured to the album page. For securement to the page, the photo mounting corners are provided with a large rear area which is coated with adhesive, or is adapted to be adhesively secured to the album page. This rear area terminates in a right angle which corresponds to the corner of the photograph. A margin is secured to this right angle in such a way as to form a right angle pocket for the reception of the corner of a photograph. Thus when the photograph has each of its corners mounted in the pocket of a photo mounting corner and the photo mounting corners are adhesively secured to the album page, the photo is secured to the album page. It can be seen from this description that the pocket portion of the photo mounting corners is of double thickness in order to provide the pocket, and that the larger area of single thickness is devoted to adhesive securement. This construction makes the pocket end of greater thickness than the adhesive end, and the adhesive normally applied to the back of such photo mounting corners normally causes the adhesive end to curl. This particular construction of photo mounting corners particularly aids their dispensing from the combined mounter and dispenser of the instant invention.

When the combined mounter and dispenser is to be made of card stock, a blank **10** as shown in FIGURE 7 is the starting part. The blank is preferably die cut to the particular configuration shown and is marked with suitable score lines for creasing, as shown in dashed lines therein. The largest area of the blank **10** is top **12** which is defined by the lower margin **14** of the blank **10**, score lines **16** and **18** and by fold score line **20**. Stop **22** is located on the opposite side of score line **20** and shares the score lines **16** and **18**. The score line **16** defines a tab

24 on the stop 22 and score line 18 defines a tab 26 on the stop 22. Sides 28 and 30 adjoin the top and are respectively separated therefrom by means of score lines 16 and 18. Bases 32 and 34 respectively adjoin sides 28 and 30 and are separated therefrom by score lines 36 and 38. Adjoining the base 32 is lap 40 which is separated therefrom by means of score line 42.

From the blank of FIGURE 7 the combined mounter and dispenser for photo mounting corners is formed by appropriate folding along these score lines and adhesive securement of the tabs and lap. Considering the blank of FIGURE 7 as being viewed from the interior of the finished device, the sides 28 and 30 are folded up at right angles along the score lines 16 and 18 with respect to the top 12. Thereupon the bases 32 and 34 are folded at an approximate 45° angle with respect to the sides along the score lines 36 and 38. Thereupon the lap 40 is folded at substantially right angles to the base 32 along the score line 42 and is secured adhesively to the base 34. Tabs 24 and 26 are then folded at right angles with respect to stop 22, stop 22 is folded at an obtuse angle with respect to the top 12 and the tabs 24 and 26 are then respectively adhesively secured to the sides 28 and 30 to hold the stop 22 is place as is shown in FIGURE 1.

As previously noted, the cross section of this device, see FIGURE 3, does not equal the projected area of the photo mounting corners to be used therein. The distance between the sides 28 and 30 is slightly greater than the transverse dimension of the photo mounting corners, but the distance between the apex of the bases 32 and 34 to the top 12 does not equal but is less than the corresponding dimension of the photo mounting corners. This construction requires that the photo mounting corners lie within the device at an angle. The angle generally corresponds at the front of the stack of photo mounting corners to the angle at the ends of the bases 32 and 34. It is noted that the bases 32 and 34 extend beyond the sides 28 and 30 to provide flanges 44 and 46 which retain the first photo mounting corner in position in this device.

As seen in FIGURE 6, photo mounting corners 48 are located within the combined mounter and dispenser. The apexes thereof, which are of double thickness and contain the pocket for reception of the photo corner, are mounted downward as shown in this figure and are toward the junction of the two bases 32 and 34. In order to prevent the photo mounting corners from coming out of the wrong end, and in order to keep the corners 48 compressed within the mounter and dispenser, a follower block or a back-up block 50 is inserted therein at the end corresponding to the margin 14. The block 50 is of cross section corresponding to the cross section of this device and of slightly larger dimension so that it is slidably retained therein. The material of the back-up block 50 is preferably of a semi-rigid foamed polymer composition of such nature that adequate resiliency is present to retain the back-up block 50 in the position in which it is set. The base 52 of the back-up block 50 is formed at an angle with respect to the general longitudinal axis of the device and is of such angle as to hold the photo mounting corners 48 at a proper angle so that they fit within the device. When the device is filled with photo mounting corners, they are held therein by means of compression between the stop 22 and the back-up block 50. Since the stop 22 engages with a single thickness portion of the photo mounting corners 48, the resiliency thereof due to the curling of this portion is compressed and the double thickness portion with the photo corner pocket tends to fan out as shown in FIGURE 6. Thus the angle of the stop 22 and the ends of the flanges 44 and 46 is more acute with respect to the axis of the device than the face 52 of the back-up block 50. As photo mounting corners are used out of the device, the natural curl in the single thickness portion of the corners causes the stack to expand and to keep the space filled. This expansion function is aided by the angle at which corners lie in the device. After a number of the corners are used, the back-up block 50 may be pushed forward toward the stop 22 to recompress the corners, as desired.

In use the combined mounter and dispenser for photo mounting corners is held in one hand and a photo on which the corners are to be mounted is held in the other, as is shown in FIG. 8. The corner of the photo is inserted into the pocket in the photo mounting corner. While the photo mounting corner is retained in the device, the flanges 44 and 46 retain the photo mounting corner within the device and prevent any substantial angular motion along the generally longitudinal axis of the device. Thus motion of the photograph is able to square the mounting corner thereon. When the mounting corner is properly in place, further force pulls the corner out of the device and the next moves in to position ready for use. Thereupon the photo is moved a quarter turn and a new corner is inserted in the pocket of the new photo mounting corner. As the photo mounting corners are depleted, the back-up block 50 is thrust forward to keep compression on the stack of photo mounting corners within the device. Accordingly, ease of handling and saving of time is accomplished by the use of this device. It can be seen from the above description that alternatively from being made from a blank of card stock, the device can be injection molded or otherwise created from polymer composition material.

In the process of use of the dispenser for photo mounting corners, the mounting corners 48 are first oriented, as is shown in FIG. 6, so that they all face the same way. After they are so oriented, they are placed in the dispenser in such a manner that the points of the photo mounting corners 48 are directed downward into the angular juncture between bases 32 and 34. After the photo mounting corners 48 are placed in the dispenser from the rear end thereof, the back-up block 50 is inserted and is pressed forward so that the angular face 52 thereof urges the photo mounting corners 48 against stop 22. They are urged forward to such an extent that the curling of the corners is somewhat straightened out so that the stack of photo mounting corners have natural resiliency urging the first one to be dispensed against stop 22. In this way the corners are resiliently urged against stop 22, which is angular. This, plus the angularity of the face of block 50 causes the photo mounting corners to lie at an angle within the dispenser. Furthermore, when compressed in this manner, with the curled adhesive edges somewhat straightened out, the pointed edge which contains the photo corner pocket is somewhat thicker. Thus, the angularity of stop 22 is appropriate for this angularity. Furthermore, since the flanges 44 and 46 extend beyond the plane of stop 22, they restrain the first photo mounting corner, which is in an accessible position for mounting on the photo, from easily slipping out from underneath stop flange 22. This amount of restraint is sufficient to permit the corner of a photo to be inserted in the photo mounting corner while it is still in the dispenser. However, further force slides the first photo mounting corner out of the dispenser while it is on the corner of the photo. Thus, the corners are quickly and accurately applied.

From the above specification it is apparent that this invention is capable of numerous modifications and variations without the exercise of inventive talent. Accordingly, the invention is defined by the scope of the following claims.

I claim:

1. A dispensing device, said dispensing device comprising:

a tubular dispenser, said tubular dispenser having a front end from which elements are dispensed and a rear end, said tubular dispenser being defined by a top, first and second sides arranged at substantially right angles with respect to said top and first and

second bases respectively angularly oriented with respect to said first and second sides, said first and second bases being positioned at substantially right angles with respect to each other;

said front end of said dispensing device comprising a stop extending from said first side to said second side, said stop being angularly positioned with respect to said top, said angular stop defining a stop plane at which elements within said tubular dispensing device are stopped, said first and second bases extending past said stop plane so that elements to be dispensed are restrained by said angular stop and are engaged against said bases beyond said stop plane as the elements are moved out from under said angular stop in the dispensing operation.

2. The dispensing device of claim **1** wherein a back-up block is positioned within said tubular dispenser, said back-up block engaging against said top, said sides and said bases, said back-up block having a face directed toward said front end of said dispensing device, said face of said back-up block being angularly positioned with respect to said top and being angularly positioned with respect to said stop.

3. A process for restraining and dispensing photo mounting corners with a dispenser for photo mounting corners, which dispenser has an axis generally aligned with the direction of movement of photo mounting corners toward the dispensing end of said dispenser, comprising the steps of:

orienting the photo mounting corners so that they are all arranged in the same orientation;

retaining the photo mounting corners in the dispenser in such a manner that they are prevented from angular rotation about the axis of the dispenser and in such a manner that one photo mounting corner is available and accessible for mounting;

compressing the photo mounting corners so that the normal resiliency of the photo mounting corners urges the photo mounting corners toward the end of the dispenser from which they are to be dispensed;

holding one edge of the oriented photo mounting corners by a stop in such a manner that the photo mounting corners lie at an angle within the dispenser and are prevented from being discharged out of the dispensing end thereof;

and restraining the photo mounting corners against the edge holding stop while the corner of a photo is being inserted in the photo mounting corner closest to the dispensing end of the dispenser.

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