Oct. 6, 1953 C. N. CROSS 2,654,554

SUPPORTING EASEL FOR DISPLAY MOUNTS

Filed Dec. 27, 1948

Fig. 1

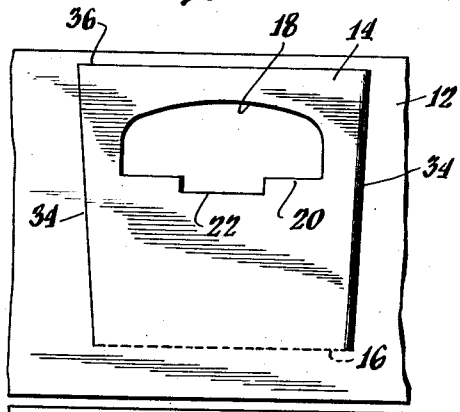


Fig. 2

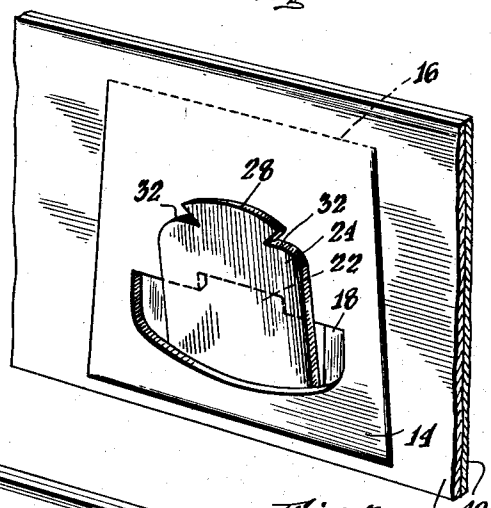


Fig. 3

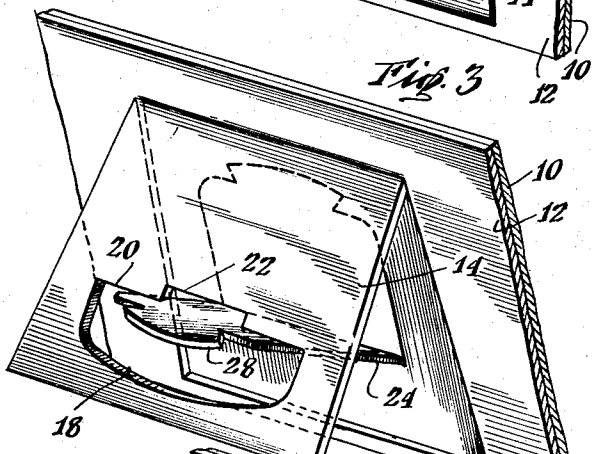


Fig. 4

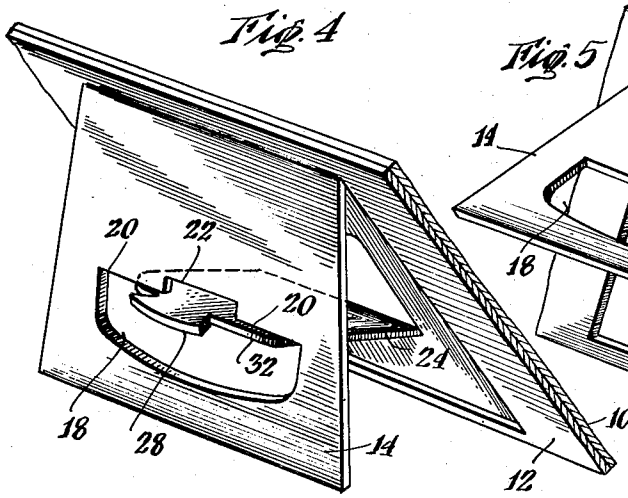
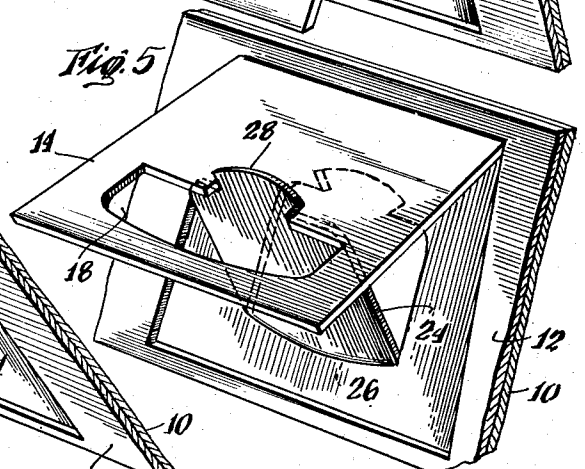


Fig. 5



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SUPPORTING EASEL FOR DISPLAY MOUNTS

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1 Claim. (Cl. 248—35)

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This invention relates to easel structures and more particularly to an easel structure including a supporting leg and a supporting leg brace or locking tongue for use in connection with display mounts.

Heretofore display mounts have been provided with easel props or supporting legs for holding said mounts in display position on surfaces such as tables, desks or counters, and these structures have usually included a latch of some type for holding the supporting leg in obliquely extended position at the rear of the mount structure. Some of the prior structures have been of such nature as to require manual manipulation and careful adjustment, and it is, therefore, the principal object of this invention to provide a device of the character described, which is very simple in its structure and which requires only a single manual movement by the user to both adjust the supporting leg in rearwardly extending mount supporting position and latch it in such adjusted position.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will appear from a reading of the specification in light of the drawing forming a part of this application, and in which drawing:

Fig. 1 is a view of a section of blank stock in which the necessary incisions have been cut to form the supporting prop and its brace or locking tongue;

Fig. 2 is a rear-face perspective view showing the supporting leg in collapsed position with the brace or locking tongue extending through a slot in the leg;

Fig. 3 is a rear-face perspective view showing the relation of the supporting leg and locking brace during movement of the leg into operative position;

Fig. 4 is a rear-face perspective view similar to that shown in Fig. 5, but showing the supporting leg near its extended position; and

Fig. 5 is a rear-face perspective view showing the relation of the supporting leg and its locking tongue when the leg has been swung to its fully open or extended position.

The display mount includes a panel 10 and a backboard 12, the panel and backboard being substantially co-extensive fixed in face-to-face relationship in the completed mount, as shown in Figs. 2 to 5. Within the backboard 12 is formed a supporting leg 14 having one end thereof attached to the backboard as at 16, so that the leg 14 may swing outwardly into obliquely disposed position for supporting the mount. The leg 14 has provided therein a slot 18, which is in

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part defined by a wall 20 having therein a notch 22.

In the panel 10 is formed an imperforate bracing tongue 24 which has one end 26 thereof resiliently attached to the panel 10, thus permitting the tongue to swing rearwardly away from the body of the panel.

The body of the tongue 24 is of such width that it is freely received in the slot 18 and the widest portion thereof is such as to contact the slot defining edges 20 and span the notch 22 in the slot 18. The free end of the tongue 24 has a reduced portion 28 which is adapted to enter the notch 22 in the supporting leg 14 and thereby hold the leg in extended or mount supporting position.

When the tongue 24 is extended through the slot 18, contact between the wide body of the tongue 24 and the slot defining walls 20 in the supporting leg 14 will generate a camming force against the face of the tongue 24 when the supporting leg 14 is manually moved rearwardly into mount supporting position. When the supporting leg 14 has been moved to fully open position, the reduced end 28 of the tongue 24, due to the resilient mounting thereof, will snap into the notch 22.

More particularly, the invention is adapted for execution in inherently resilient material such as cardboard stock. The panel 10 and the backboard 12 may be fabricated from separate pieces of stock, although it is contemplated that a single piece of stock may be utilized and in such event, the panel and the backboard need only be folded into face-to-face relationship after the various cutting operations have been performed thereon.

In its broad sense, the invention contemplates prop and supporting tongue structures that are separately formed and subsequently attached to the mount panel and backboard, but in its most specific and presently most desirable form, the supporting structure, including the supporting leg 14 and the locking tongue or brace 24, are formed directly in their respective sections of stock. Thus, when the whole structure is folded flat, the supporting leg 14 and its locking brace or tongue 24 will assume a position in the plane of the stock respectively from which they are formed and thus add nothing to the bulk or thickness of the final product.

According to the invention, the brace or locking tongue 24 in the panel 10 is formed by severing the board along substantially parallel lines 30. These lines define the widest portion of the body of the brace. The line 26 along which the tongue 24 is integrally hinged to the panel 10 is prefer-

ably a devious line which adds a greater degree of resilience to the tongue. The efficacy of a devious hinge line for adding resilience to a hinge structure is taught in my pending application Serial No. 606,649 filed July 23, 1945, now Patent 2,472,405.

The free end of the tongue terminates in the reduced portion 28, which is defined by a pair of incut shoulders 32 extending inwardly from the parallel side edges 30.

The supporting leg 14 may be formed in the backboard by severing the board along a pair of divergent lines 34 which generally define the side edges of the leg. The lines 34 are jointed by a transverse line 36, thereby providing a free end upon which the supporting leg 14 may rest when the leg has been swung into mount supporting position. Herein the hinge line 16 may be made in a variety of ways, as, for example, scoring along the line 16 the material from which the backboard is constructed. The general configuration of the slot 18 is of little consequence, so long as the slot is sufficiently wide and deep to freely accommodate the brace or locking tongue 24. As it may be seen by reference to Figs. 2 through 5, the locking tongue 24 must extend through the slot 18 for the intended function of the support. One of the slot defining walls is preferably along a straight line as indicated by the reference numeral 20, thereby providing a bearing surface for the inner face of the wide portion of the tongue 24 during the extension of the supporting leg into operative position. Specifically, the end wall 20 of the slot 18 has formed therein a notch 22 which is so related to the reduced end 28 of the tongue 24 that the reduced end may fall into the notch 22, and when in such position the shoulders 32 on the free end of the tongue 24 about the inner face of the supporting leg 14 and thereby hold the leg in positive engagement while it is in its open or mount supporting position.

As hereinbefore pointed out, the tongue 24 is resiliently attached to the panel 10 along the line 26 and advantage is taken of the resilient nature of the attachment to insure that the reduced end 28 of the tongue 24 will move up into the notch 22 and remain there while the supporting structure is in operative position.

By making use of the devious score line 26 as taught in my application for patent hereinbefore mentioned, the reduced end 28 of the locking tongue 24 snaps up into the notch 22 with a distinctly audible sound and with considerable force, it being the tendency of the tongue 24 to return to its closed or retracted position within its cut-out in the panel 10 under the influence of its natural resilience.

The reduced end 28 and the shoulders 32 at the free end of the tongue 24 define between them a notch at the inner end of each of the shoulders and this notch is of sufficient depth to pass into the notch 22 of the supporting leg 14 and the outwardly diverging walls of the tongue notches extend sufficiently far to engage the rear or outer surface of the supporting leg 14 at areas laterally spaced of the slot 22. By this means the leg is limited in its outward movement as well as positively retained against a collapsing movement in an inward direction.

Herein the structure has been illustrated as comprising a supporting panel and a backboard. It follows, of course, that display material may be supported directly on the panel. However, in many instances additional mount members will be carried by the supporting panel 10 and the

utility of the invention is, therefore, not in any sense restricted to the use of a structure having only a display material supporting panel.

In using the display mount, the brace or locking tongue 24 is projected through the slot 18 in the supporting leg 14. It will be noted, therefore, that the inner face of the tongue 24 will bear with considerable force against the outer face of the supporting leg in the area above the slot 18. In order to erect the structure into mount supporting position, it is merely necessary to manually engage the supporting leg 14 and move it outwardly into an oblique position about its hinge line 16. This movement will effectively cam the locking tongue 24 toward a generally horizontal position. This camming action will continue until the leg 14 has been moved into fully open position, at which time the notch 22 will register with the reduced end 28 of the tongue 24 and the resilient nature of the tongue mounting will be effective to move the tongue upwardly relative to the slot in the leg 14 to thereby interengage the slot 22 and the reduced end of the locking tongue 24. Inasmuch as special provision has been made to insure the resilience of the locking tongue 24, the reduced free end portion 28 of the tongue will be held in its upward limit of movement within the notch 22 without any danger whatever of a separation between the interengaged parts. Similarly, continued outward movement of the leg 14 is inhibited by the overhanging portion of the notches formed between the shoulders 32 and the reduced end 28 at the free end of the locking tongue 24.

While the invention has been described in one specific and presently preferable embodiment, it is contemplated that changes may be made therein without departing from the spirit of the invention.

I claim:

A display mount comprising a supporting panel and a substantially co-extensive backboard fixed in face-to-face relation, a mount supporting leg formed in said backboard and having one end thereof attached to said backboard for swinging movement, the peripheral edges of said leg being in frictional contact with the corresponding edges of the backboard recess in which the same is formed, a slot in said leg including a slot defining surface having a notch therein, said notch positioned in the portion of said slot defining surface facing the end of said mount supporting leg attached to said backboard, an imperforate bracing tongue attached to said panel in the area under said leg, said tongue having a free end disposed toward the attached end of said leg and having its other end resiliently attached to said panel for swinging movement along a line in said panel that is located adjacent the bottom of said slot when said supporting leg and said panel are in face-to-face relation whereby said tongue may be rotated and extended through said slot and lie in a plane substantially parallel to and adjacent said supporting leg when said supporting leg and said panel are in face-to-face relation, the body of said tongue being of less width than said slot to provide for free movement of the tongue through the slot but sufficiently wide and so disposed as to contact with one face of said slot defining surface and in notch spanning relation when the same is extended through said slot, and a reduced area at the free end of said tongue adapted to enter said notch, whereby contact between the body of said tongue and the defining surface of said slot will cam said tongue outwardly when the tongue is extended through the

slot and the leg is moved outwardly, and the resilient mounting of the tongue will cause said reduced end thereof to snap into said notch when said parts are in registration.

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