Jan. 20, 1948. J. H. OXLEY 2,434,860

EASEL

Filed July 26, 1944

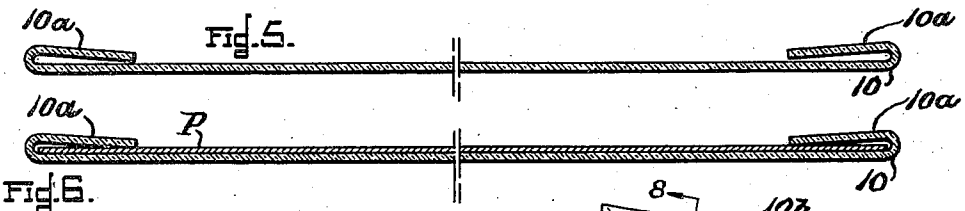


Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.

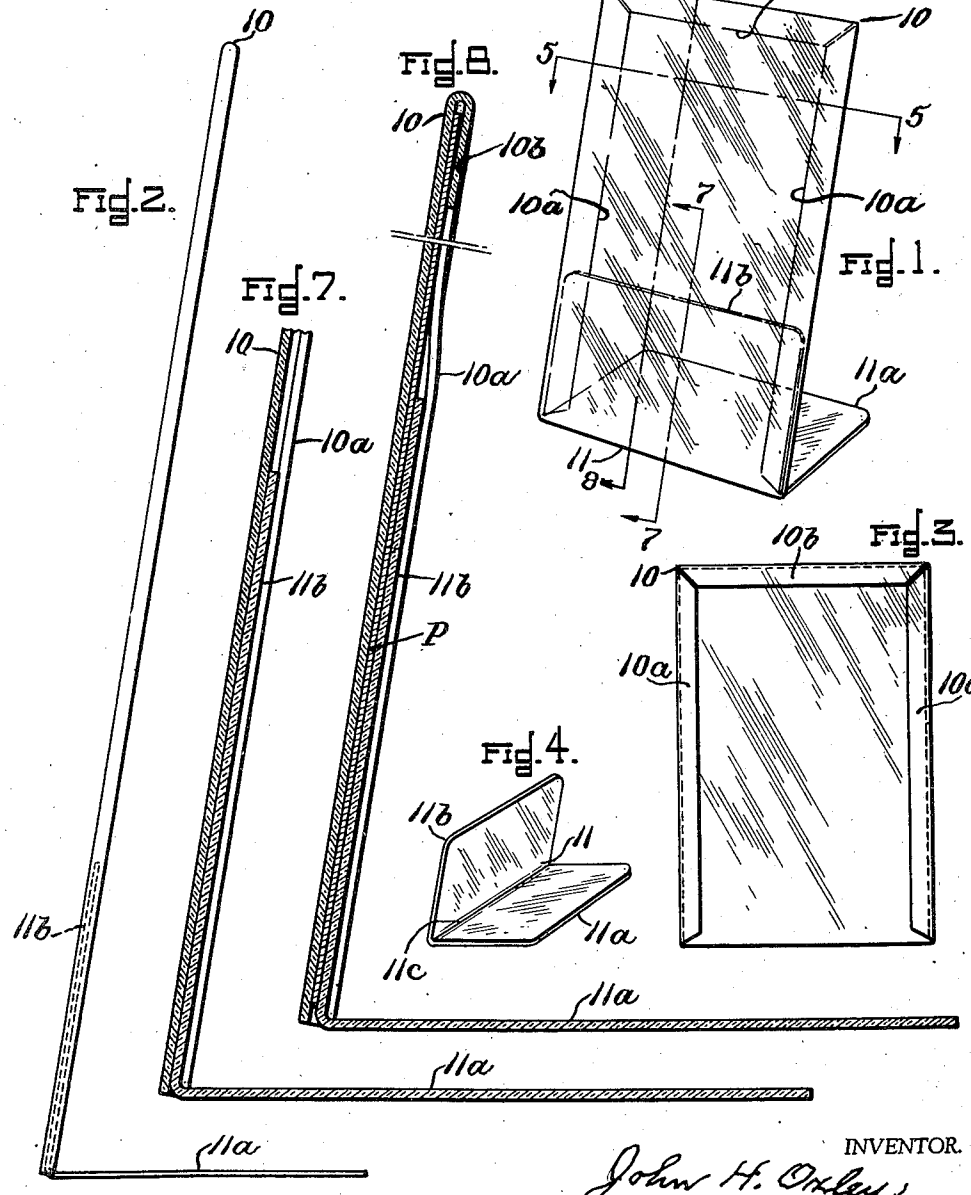


Fig. 2.

Fig. 8.

Fig. 7.

Fig. 1.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

INVENTOR.

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EASEL

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1 Claim. (Cl. 248—34)

1

My invention relates to easels for holding and displaying articles of thin sheet material such as photographs, prints and the like, and it has for its object to provide an attractive, inexpensive and efficient device of the class referred to which will embellish its contents.

To these ends I have provided an easel of the class described which, in its preferred form, may be constructed and function as set forth in the following description, although it is to be understood that modifications thereof are intended to be included within the scope of the appended claim by which the several novel features of the invention are separately pointed out and defined.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an easel constructed in accordance with this invention.

Figure 2 is a side view of the easel shown in Fig. 1.

Figure 3 is a rear elevation of the frame member hereinafter described.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the base member hereinafter described.

Figure 5 is an enlarged section on line 5—5 of Fig. 1 but with the middle portion of the frame broken away.

Figure 6 is a view similar to Fig. 5 but showing an article of sheet material mounted within the frame.

Figure 7 is a section on line 7—7 of Fig. 1.

Figure 8 is a partial section on line 8—8 of Fig. 1 with the intermediate portion of the frame broken away and showing an article of sheet material mounted within the same.

The illustrated embodiment of my invention is an ornate easel suitable for use in a parlor, bedroom or other situation where it is desired to display a photograph or the like to good advantage and in an attractive manner. This form of my invention comprises a frame member 10 and a supporting base member 11. The frame 10 is herein shown as consisting of a single rectangular piece of stiffly flexible transparent sheet material provided along its opposite sides and at its top, only, with re-entrant flaps 10*a* and 10*b*, respectively, disposed closely adjacent to the rear face or side of frame 10.

The base member 11 is herein shown as made from a rectangular piece of the same stiffly flexible transparent sheet material that is bent sharply transversely as at 11*c* into the acute angular shape shown so as to provide the same with a base wing 11*a* to rest flatwise upon a support and with an upstanding rearwardly inclined or tilted flat wing 11*b* whose opposite side marginal portions are adapted to be slid edgewise into position beneath the lower ends of side flaps 10*a* of frame 10 from the lower ends thereof as will be clear from Figs. 1, 7 and 8 of the drawings, the lower ends of said side flaps serving through engagement with supporting wing 11*a* as stops to limit the inward movement of the wing 11*b*.

2

In using my new easel the opposite side marginal portions of the photograph P, or other article of sheet material, that is to be displayed, is first slid edgewise into position beneath the side flaps 10*a* of frame 10 as shown in Fig. 6, with its top marginal portion beneath the flap 10*b* at the top of frame 10 as shown in Fig. 8, the upper portion of the frame being sprung or flexed slightly by finger pressure, when necessary, to permit said top marginal portion to enter between the flap 10*b* and the body portion of the frame as shown in Fig. 8.

Then the wing 11*b* of base member 11 is shoved edgewise into position between the photograph P, or the like, and the side flaps 10*a* of the frame as shown in Fig. 8 so that the lower portion of said photograph is clamped and held between wing 11*b* of the base member and the body portion of the frame.

The angular relationship of the wings of the base member is less than ninety degrees and is made such that when the loaded device is placed in position upon a flat horizontal support such as the top of a dresser or table with wing 11*a* resting flatwise thereon, the center of gravity of the loaded frame is directly above the intermediate portion of said wing 11*a* and therefore the device will stand alone with the frame held in a rearwardly inclined upstanding position.

In the best form of my invention herein shown, both frame 10 and base member 11 are each molded to shape from a single piece of a sheet plastic such as "Vinylite," "Lucite" or the like, such material being available on the market and having a glassy lustrous finish and of crystal-clear transparency which gives to the photograph or the like a highly desirable sheen and attractive appearance. An additional ornamental effect may be secured through the use of such material that is slightly tinted with a desired color. In practice I have employed material of the kind referred to measuring about twenty one-thousandths of an inch in thickness.

When the body of the frame member 10 is made as a complete imperforate rectangular panel as shown, the photograph is shielded and protected by the same. The invention, however, is not limited to an imperforate body portion.

What I claim is:

An easel comprising a rectangular frame member and a base member, said frame member being made from a single piece of transparent sheet material and including a flat body portion provided at its top and opposite sides only with integral narrow resilient independently flexible and inwardly bent marginal clamping flaps disposed upon the rear side of said body portion and by which a photograph or the like is gripped and held in position against the rear side of said body portion, and said base member being a single piece of sheet material bent transversely to provide the same with two flat wings that are relatively disposed at an acute angle, one of said wings being slidable edgewise into position beneath the lower end portions of the side flaps of said frame member behind the photograph or the like so that both said wing and said photograph or the like are gripped and held by said side flaps, and the other wing serving as a base to support said frame member and its contents in an up-standing rearwardly canted position with the center of gravity thereof directly above said other wing.

JOHN H. OXLEY.

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