Oct. 3, 1944. C. A. HORKY 2,359,559

DECORATIVE DEVICE

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Fig. 1.

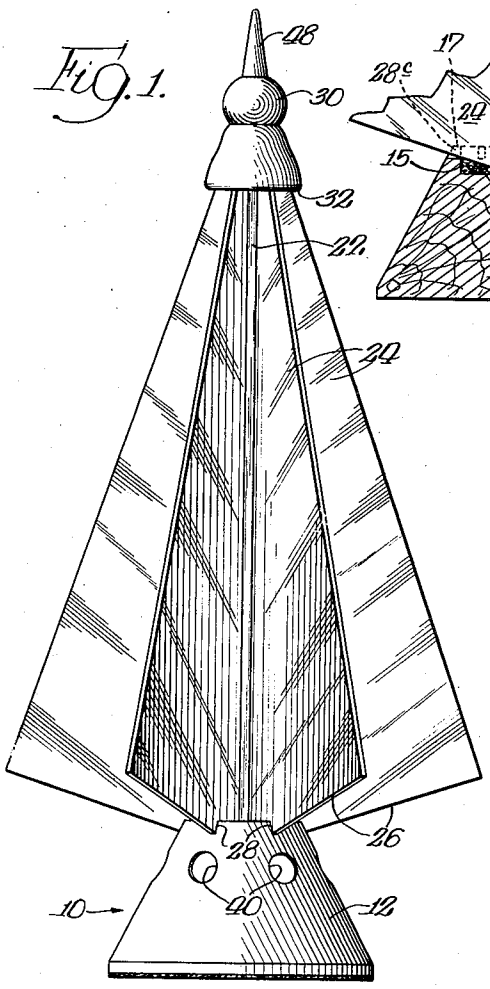


Fig. 11.

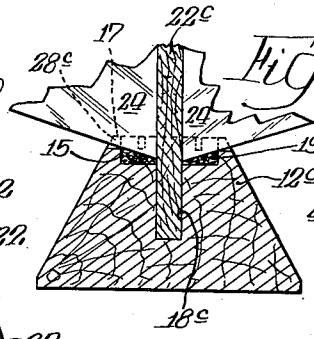


Fig. 3.

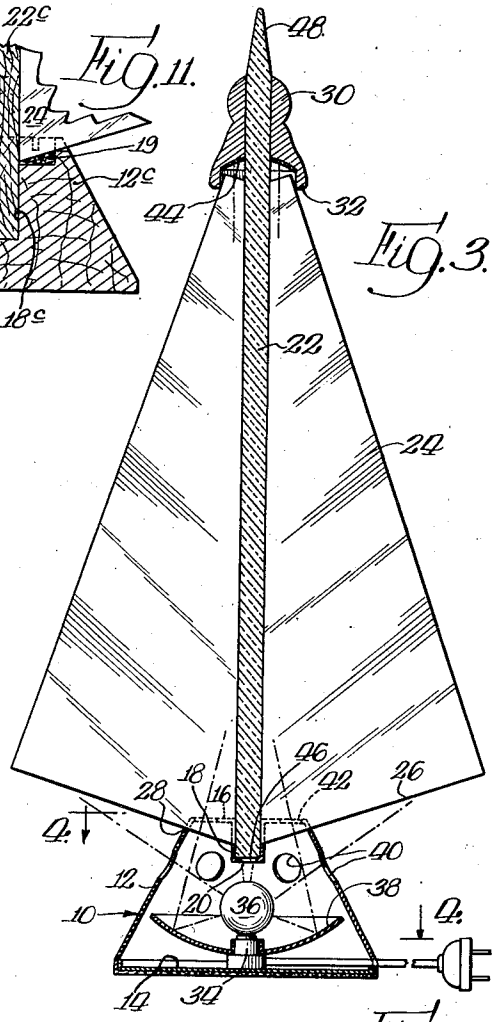


Fig. 2.

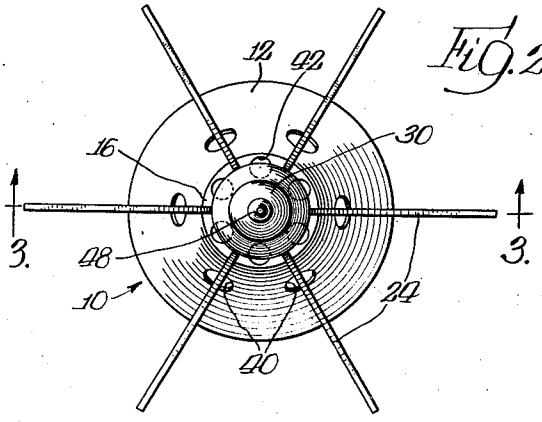
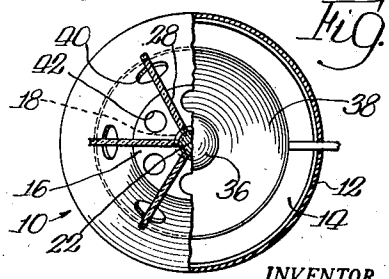


Fig. 4.



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Fig. 5.

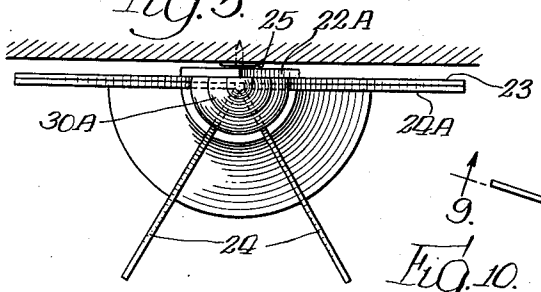


Fig. 10.

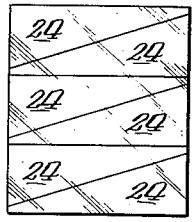


Fig. 8.

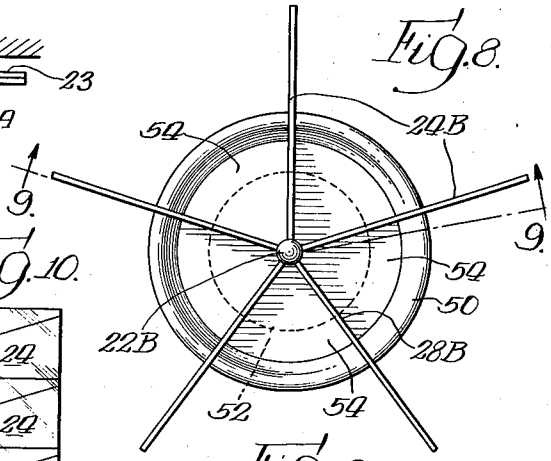


Fig. 9.

Fig. 6.

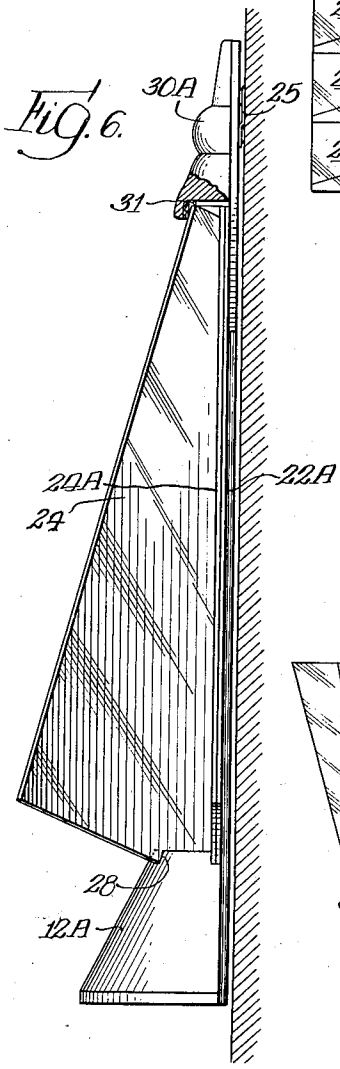
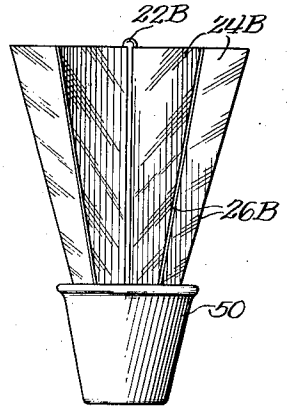
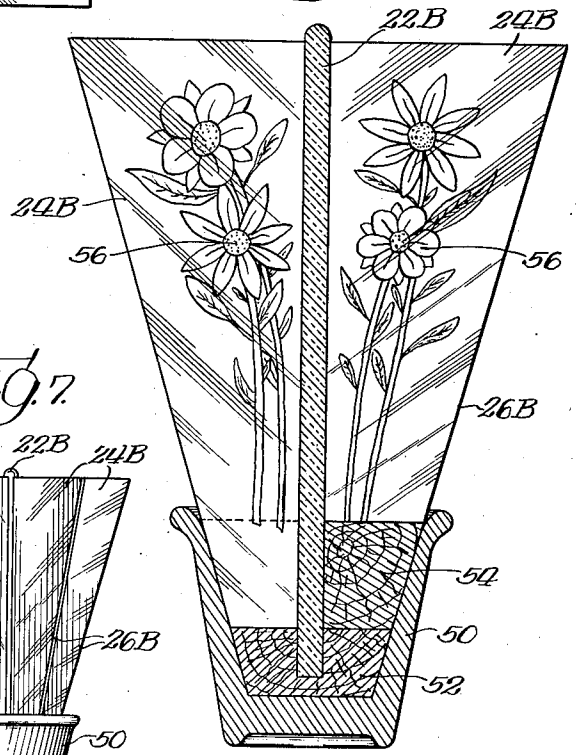


Fig. 7.





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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,359,559

DECORATIVE DEVICE

Charles A. Horky, Chicago, Ill.

Application July 14, 1942, Serial No. 450,868

5 Claims. (Cl. 41—10)

My invention relates to devices of the kind used for household, store or window decoration. More specifically it relates to a novelty which simulates a tree or plant in a conventional manner, and which is capable of embodiment in a number of attractive forms.

An object of my invention is to provide a device of the kind described which can be manufactured without requiring any metal.

Another object is the provision of a decorative device which is durable, and easily cleaned when necessary.

A further object is the provision of a device readily adaptable for illumination by a built-in lamp, which will throw light on the decorative panels and enhance the attractive effect thereof.

Still other objects are the provision of a structure utilizing panels which can be conveniently made in quantities by an economical method; the provision of a structure for holding glass or other panels without danger of their falling out; the provision in a modified form, of a wall plaque in which a mirror is employed to simulate a full-round effect; and the provision, in another modified form, of a novelty simulating a potted plant.

With these and other objects in view, my invention consists in the construction, arrangement and combination of the various parts of my device whereby the objects contemplated are attained, as hereinafter more fully set forth, pointed out in my claims and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is an elevational view of a device embodying my invention, in the conventionalized form of a Christmas tree;

Figure 2 is a top view thereof;

Figure 3 is a vertical sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a horizontal sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Figure 3;

Figure 5 is a top view of a modified form of the device of Figures 1–4, made up as a wall plaque;

Figure 6 is a side elevational view, partly in vertical section, of the device of Figure 5;

Figure 7 is an elevational view of another form of ornamental novelty in which my invention may be embodied;

Figure 8 is a top view thereof;

Figure 9 is a vertical sectional view, taken on line 9—9 of Figure 8;

Figure 10 is a diagrammatic view illustrating the manner in which the transparent panels may be made up from a rectangular sheet of material;

Figure 11 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view of a modified form of base construction.

In the form of my invention illustrated in Figures 1-4, the base portion is indicated generally by the reference numeral 10. It may consist of a hollow shell 12 provided with a bottom closure 14. The shell has a top wall 16 from the center of which depends a tube 18 preferably at least partially closed at its bottom end, as by a flange 20. The shell 12 may be made of metal, but is equally well adapted to manufacture from any of the many plastic molding materials now popular. I have shown it as being hollow for the accommodation of a lamp, but if no lamp is desired, the base can be easily and cheaply made from wood, in which case a central bore would take the place of the depending tube 18.

The tube 18 receives a central post 22 which I make preferably from glass, although wood or any other suitable material may be used. Arranged around the central post in a radial manner are plates or panels 24, preferably formed also of glass or some similar transparent material.

In the case of the device illustrated in Figures 1 to 4, these plates are triangular in their general outline, and as will be later explained, they are conveniently made in a right triangular form, one of the points being truncated. They are mounted with their hypotenuse sides adjacent the central post, since this places their lower edges 26 on an incline, as may be seen in Figures 1 and 3.

The top portion of the base 10 including the tube 18, is slotted to receive the lower edges 26 of the plates 24 and to hold them in their radial arrangement. The slots are designated by the numeral 28. Note that the more central portions of the slot (in the tube 18, Figure 3) are deeper than the outer portions, thus conforming to the inclined lower edge of the plates, so that the plates tend to slide toward the center.

At the top of the post 22 I provide a cap member 30 which slides over the post, and may be cemented or otherwise fastened thereto in any desired manner. The cap has a depending peripheral flange 32 which embraces the upper ends of the plates 24, and holds them firmly in contact with the center post. The cap also serves to prevent upward movement of the plates, and it will be observed that they are thus retained against movement out of the slots 28, because of the inclination of the lower edges 26 and the corresponding shape of the slots 28. Unless the plates are allowed to move upwardly, their lower edges cannot be removed from the slots. Hence, bringing the cap member 30 down into engage-

ment with the plates and cementing it permanently, serves to retain the entire device in assembled relation. The center post, of course, must be permanently fixed to the base member in any suitable manner.

It will be observed particularly in Figure 1 that this assembly gives a structure resembling the conventional Christmas tree which is associated with the Christmas holiday season.

The plates **24** may bear any desired decoration and I have found it advantageous to apply a design of Christmas tree branches and ornaments to the plates. The so-called silk screen process is excellent for this purpose and the design can be applied in a number of colors, to make a very attractive display or ornamental device. The radially extending plates, each bearing such decoration, give the full-round effect of a real tree.

The cap member **30** and base **10** may be painted; or they may be covered with crystal powder, shredded Cellophane or similar decorative coating.

As previously mentioned, the base **10** may be provided with means for illuminating the transparent panels **24**, and causing the design or other pattern imprinted thereon to stand out strongly. The illuminating means consists of a socket **34** receiving a lamp bulb **36**, and preferably carrying a reflector **38** by which stray light from the bulb is directed upwardly. The base is then provided with openings **40** in the side walls, preferably at points beneath the lower edges **26** of the transparent panel, and openings **42** in the top wall **16**, preferably at points between the panels **24**, so that light will be thrown on the surface.

When an illuminated base is used as described, the cap **30** may be provided with a reflector **44** recessed in its bottom side, to redirect beams of light on to the top portions of the transparent panels.

The opening **46** at the lower end of the tube **18** allows the central post **22** to be illuminated internally which gives an attractive effect. A quartz or lucite rod may be used if desired, conducting the light by internal reflection in the well-known manner and creating an interesting luminous effect at the opposite end **48** of the central post.

When the illuminating system is omitted, as when a solid wood base is employed in the manner previously suggested, the reflector **44** is not used. It may be desirable to place an annular washer of felt or similar soft material in the recess in the cap member, bearing against the top ends of the plates **24** to hold them firmly in place, serving somewhat in the nature of a shock absorber.

The transparent plates **24** may be conveniently cut from a single rectangular plate of glass as illustrated in Figure 10, which shows the six plates for a Christmas tree such as that illustrated in Figure 1. The principal advantage of this kind of layout is that each panel may bear a somewhat different design, yet the entire group can be printed simultaneously by the silk screen process or other method. The desired shape of the panel is obtained from standard sheets of glass without any waste of material.

Figure 11 illustrates a solid base construction. The base member **12C** may economically be made of wood, although any other desired material may be employed. A central bore **18C** receives the support post **22C**, corresponding in this respect to the tube **18**. The post is glued in the bore, or otherwise secured therein.

Since there is no light in the base, the support post need not be transparent, and may be made of wood although it may be desirable, for attractive appearance, to use glass or other material.

At the top of the base **12C** a shallow counterbore **15** is made, leaving an annular rim **17** at the outer edge of the top portion of the base **12C**. Radial slots **28C** are cut in the rim **17**, to receive the lower edges of the panels **24**. It should be noted that the counterbore **15** is deeper than the slots **28C**, so that the inclined lower edge of the panel **24** will rest in the slots, with a tendency for the panels to wedge or move toward the center post **22C**. A pad of felt **19**, or other soft material, may be provided for resilient engagement with the lower edges of the panels.

Figures 5 and 6 illustrate a modified form suitable for a wall plaque. The base **12A** is made half-round, as seen in Figure 5. A support strip **22A** is connected to the base, and at its upper end has fastened to it the cap member **30A** which is, in general, similar to the cap member **30** previously described, but half-round. A pad **31** of felt or similar material is used in the manner previously suggested. The support strip **22A** carries a back board **23** which may be of plywood, heavy cardboard or composition board or the like. The latter serves to support a plate or panel **24A** which is, in general, similar to the plates **24**, except that it is silvered on its rear surface. The result of course is that the forwardly projecting panels **24** are reflected in the panel **24A**, so that the eye receives the impression of a full-round structure just like that shown in Figures 1–4.

The support strip **22A** may be provided with a hanger ring or loop **25** by which the device can be supported on a nail or peg in the wall. Alternatively, the decorative novelty may be stood on its base, as at the back of a dresser, table or counter.

In this modified form the essential features of the structure by which the panels **24** are retained, are the same. That is, the panels extend into a recess on the underside of the cap **30A** and their inclined lower edges are received in inclined slots **28** in the base **12A**.

The same general idea is subject to embodiment in various other forms, of which Figures 7–9 illustrate an example. The form here shown is a "potted plant." The pot **50** is provided with a plug **52** fitting closely in the bottom. The plug carries a central post **22B** which corresponds to the post **22** previously described, and likewise may be made of glass, wood, or other appropriate material. The remaining portion of the cavity in the pot is substantially filled by segmental members **54** which serve as spacers between which are slots **28B** in which the panels **24B** are received. The inside walls of the pot are inclined as seen in Figure 9, and the sides **26B** of the panels are correspondingly inclined so that the weight of the panels tends to wedge them down into the pot, and into close relation with the central post **22B**. The advantage of this structure is that it stays in place when it is put together, yet the panels **24B** may simply be lifted out for cleaning when desired. The panels may be provided with any suitably applied decoration **56** in the nature of flowers, leaves, or other ornamental representations.

It will be apparent that the "flower pot" of Figures 7–9 could be made half-round, in the form of a wall plaque, along the lines suggested in Figures 5 and 6.

Where the incline of the edge which fits into the base slots is substantial, as in Figures 7–9, no top cap is necessary to retain the plates in assembly, since their own weight is sufficient for the purpose. However, if it be desired to make the device more rugged for handling or shipping, a top retainer may be provided on the supporting member or post.

I claim as my invention:

1. In a decorative novelty device, a base, a post of transparent material mounted upon said base, a plurality of slots being formed in said base, translucent panels having portions of their edges received in said slots, a source of light in said base, said base having openings formed therein aligned with the edges of said panels and the end of the post respectively through which light from said source has access to the edges of said panels and the end of said post.

2. A decorative novelty comprising a base, a mirror supported in upright position thereon, a plurality of slots being formed in said base in front of said mirror, and transparent panels mounted in said slots, the edges of the panels which coact with the slots being inclined downwardly toward the mirror.

3. An illuminated novelty including a base having a source of light therein, a central post of transparent material mounted upon said base, a plurality of slots being formed in said base in radial relation around said post, and a plurality of translucent panels having portions of their edges received in said slots, the lower edges of said panels being inclined inwardly and downwardly toward said post, whereby the weight of said panels causes them to tend to move inwardly toward said post, and openings in said base aligned with the edges of said panels and the end of the post respectively whereby light from said source has access to said panels and the end of said post.

4. In a decorative device, a base having a central recess and an annular upstanding rim on the upper side thereof, radial slots in said rim, said recess being deeper than said slots, and panels received in said slots, said panels having inclined lower edges, with portions in said recess lower than portions in said slots.

5. A decorative novelty including a base with a central recess and radial slots extending outward from said recess, said recess being deeper than said slots, a post mounted centrally on said base, a plurality of panels arranged radially to said post, with their lower edges received in said slots, means on said post retaining said panels in said slots, and a pad of resilient material in said recess bearing against said panels.

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