Aug. 19, 1969 E. R. BARNETT ET AL 3,462,157

AUDIBLE GREETING CARD

Filed June 5, 1967

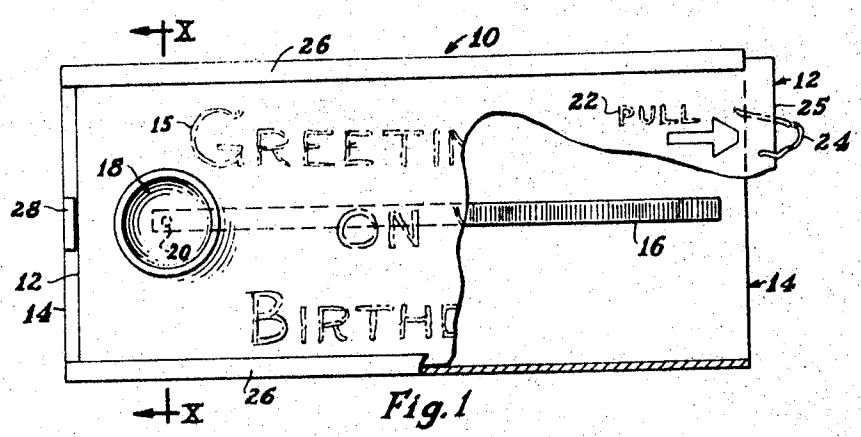


Fig. 1

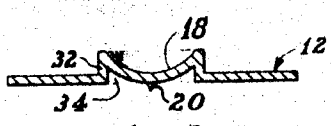


Fig. 2

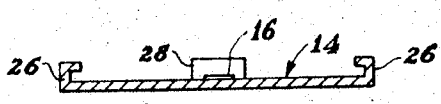


Fig. 3

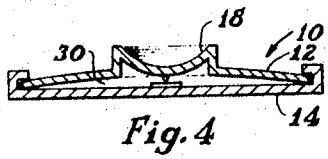


Fig. 4

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AUDIBLE GREETING CARD

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A "talking" greeting card, which audibly delivers a short message or greeting.

This invention relates to greeting cards; and more particularly, concepts of the present invention provide, inexpensively, a greeting card which audibly delivers a greeting.

The audible capability of the greeting card is advantageously provided quite inexpensively, providing that the "talking card" may be merchandised within the price range of greeting cards, or only relatively slightly higher. Accordingly, no great sound-fidelity or long-lasting operability is necessarily needed nor asserted; in contrast, the virtue of this greeting card is that it relatively inexpensively provides a novelty item which "talks" or delivers an audible message or other sound.

The above description is rather general and of an introductory nature; more specific details, components, and concepts of the overall invention are set forth in the following more detailed description of an illustrative embodiment thereof, taken in conjunction with the accompanying generally diagrammatic and schematic drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a plan view of the greeting card, portions shown as broken away to disclose details;

FIGS. 2, 3, and 4 are sectional views, taken generally as indicated by section line X—X of FIG. 1. More specifically:

FIG. 2 is a sectional view of an upper panel member;

FIG. 3 is a sectional view of a lower panel member; and

FIG. 4 is a sectional view illustrating the upper panel member and the lower panel member assembled together to provide the greeting card.

As shown in the drawings, there is provided a "talking greeting card" **10** formed generally of two relatively movable pieces, that is, a movable panel **12** and a base panel **14**. The card's decoration and written greeting are shown illustratively as the text **15** "Greetings on your Birthday" which is lettered onto the top face of panel **12**.

The base panel **14** carries a longitudinally-extending sound-strip **16**; and the movable panel **12** is formed adjacent its left end to provide an outwardly-concave or sound-dome portion which provides a speaker **18**, underneath which is a sound pick-up shown as a needle **20** which operatively faces the sound-strip **16** of the base panel **14** when the two panels **12** and **14** are assembled.

The arrangement is such that as the movable panel **12** is moved rightwardly with respect to the base panel **14**, the needle **20** operatively engages the sound-strip **16**, imparting the textual message of the sound-strip **16** to the speaker **18**, which delivers the message audibly.

An instructional designator text **22**, such as the designator word "Pull" accompanied by a rightwardly-pointing arrow, is marked onto the movable panel **12**, instructing the user in the manipulation step for operation of the greeting card. A length of string **24** or the like interconnects the right end of the panels **12** and **14** to accommodate the long relative movement thereof; but the string **24** is short enough to prevent complete separation of the two panels **12** and **14**. The right-hand end-portion **25** of the panel **12** extends slightly rightwardly of the right-hand end of the panel **14**, providing ease of manual access for pulling on the panel **12**.

The side edges of the base panel **14** are formed over to provide inwardly-facing retaining grooves **26**, into which the side edges of the movable panel **12** are retainingly received. The left end of the base panel **14** is shown as formed upwardly to provide abutment **28**, limiting leftward movement of the panel **12**.

It will be observed, particularly noting FIG. 4, that the panels **12** and **14** are formed so that slight resilient deformation is required to fit the panel **12** into assembly with the panel **14** with the pick-up needle **20** of panel **12** on the sound-strip **16**. This resilient deformation maintains a relative snugness of the panels **12** and **14**, and assures operatively sufficient pressure of the needle **20** on the track or sound-strip **16**. It also tends to assure (see FIG. 4 in comparison to FIG. 2) that the panels **12** and **14** will be spaced apart for a large area surrounding the needle **20**, thereby avoiding dampening of the sound-enhancing effect of one or both the panels **12** and **14**. Also, the bowed nature of the parts provides in effect some air chamber **30** which may enhance the sound-effect, even though panels **12** and **14** are substantially flat.

The sound-strip **16** and the speaker member **18** with its needle **20** are shown as integrally provided on the panels **12** and **14**, respectively. If desired, they may be formed as separate pieces, and assembled onto the respective panels as a manufacturing step, depending upon the specific forming details desired, but preferably bearing in mind that a particular desire is economy in contrast to high sound-fidelity or long-lasting character.

As shown, the dome or sound-horn **18** is shown as supported along its periphery by the top of a cylindrical wall **32** which upwardly extends from the upper panel **12**; and beneath the sound-dome **18** and interiorly of the wall **32** there is thus provided an annular space **34** which may serve as an air-chamber enhancing the sound-effect. In the embodiment as illustrated, it will be observed that the upper panel **12**, together with the walls **32** and the diaphragm dome **18**, are all formed integrally from a single piece of stock.

It is thus seen that an audible greeting card according to concepts of the present invention provides novel and advantageous concepts and features, providing, by economical construction, a "talking card."

Accordingly, it will thus be seen from the foregoing description of the invention according to this illustrative embodiment, considered with the accompanying drawings, that the present invention provides a new and useful greeting card, having desired advantages and characteristics, and accomplishing its intended objects, including those hereinbefore pointed out and others which are inherent in the invention.

Modifications and variations may be effected without departing from the scope of the novel concepts of the invention; accordingly, the invention is not limited to the specific form or arrangement of parts herein described or shown.

What is claimed is:

1. An audible greeting card, comprising a pair of panel members, a first one of which carries a sound track, and a second one of which carries a sound pick-up member and an amplifier speaker actuated by said sound pick-up member, the panel members being arranged and relatively movably interconnected in a manner such that relative movement thereof causes the said pick-up member to be operatively engaged; in a combination in which:

the said second panel member being at least substantially as large as said sound track both laterally and longitudinally of the said sound track, and being juxtaposed with respect to the said sound track when the two panel members are in assembled position prior to the relative movement thereof which achieves a sound function; the first one of said panel members is a support member which both non-relatively-movably supports the said sound track and relatively-movably supports the said second panel member.

2. The invention as set forth in claim 1, in a combination in which the said second panel member has an upstanding wall which carries the amplifier speaker to which the pick-up member is operatively secured.

3. The invention as set forth in claim 1 in a combination in which one of the said first and second panel members is provided with retaining groove means movably receiving portions of the other of said members.

4. The invention as set forth in claim 1, in a combination in which the said first and second panel members are interconnected at spaced points outwardly of said pick-up member, the arrangement being such that at least one of said members must be resiliently deformed with respect to the axis of the sound track to position said pick-up member operatively onto the said sound track.

5. The invention as set forth in claim 1, in a combination in which the said second panel member integrally provides the audible-sound-emitting speaker to which the said pick-up member is operatively secured.

6. The invention as set forth in claim 1, in a combination in which the greeting card has a front panel and a rear panel, and the said panels are themselves constructed to provide respectively the said first and the said second panel members.

7. The invention as set forth in claim 1 in a combination in which the panel members have interengaging abutment means which, with respect to relative movement of the two panel members in a certain direction, limits such relative movement to not substantially more than that in which the two panel members are relatively positioned such that the said pick-up member is at the beginning of the sound track.

8. The invention as set forth in claim 7 in a combination in which said abutment means includes an abutment lug carried by one of said panel members and disposed in the path of the other said panel member when the two panel members are operatively interconnected.

9. The invention as set forth in claim 1 in a combination in which means are provided which, with respect to relative movement of the two panel members in a direction which achieves the sound function, limits such relative movemenet to that in which the two panel members are not completely separated.

10. The invention as set forth in claim 1 in a combination in which the area of the said second panel member is substantially larger than the area of said amplifier speaker, thereby providing the double function of providing an area for carrying a text or other indicia of relatively large size, and for protecting at least substantially the entire length of the sound track when the two said panels are in the said juxtaposed position of assembly.

11. The invention as set forth in claim 1 in a combination in which the said first panel member, being the one which carries the said sound track, extends outwardly relatively to the speaker-carrying second panel member; and the said sound track-carrying first panel member is the one of the panel members which is graspable manually by the user to support both panel members.

12. The invention as set forth in claim 1 in a combination in which the two panel members are substantially flat; but the positional interrelationship of the sound pick-up member, the sound track, and the means of relative interconnection of the two panel members, is such that assembly of the two panel members with the sound pick-up member operatively on the said sound track operatively resiliently deforms at least one of said panel members away from the other said panel member.

13. The invention as set forth in claim 12 in a combination in which the deformation-imparting relationship is with respect to the axis of the sound track and is such that the deformation urges the two panel members toward one another and thereby maintains a frictional engagement of the two panel members retarding inadvertent relative movement thereof even though the panel members would otherwise be relatively freely movable with respect to one another.

14. The invention as set forth in claim 12 in a combination in which the deformation-imparting relationship is such that the deformation urges the two panel members toward one another and thereby maintains the pick-up member operatively forcefully against the sound track.

15. The invention as set forth in claim 12 in a combination in which the deformation-imparting relationship is such that the deformation spaces the two panel members apart sufficiently to provide an air chamber for enhancing the sound-effect even though the panel members are substantially flat.

16. The invention as set forth in claim 12 in a combination in which the deformation-imparting relationship is such that the deformation maintains the speaker-carrying second panel member out of contact with the sound track-carrying first panel member throughout a considerable area outwardly of the sound pick-up member and speaker, and thereby obtaining sound-enhancing vibrations of the said considerable panel area in contrast to a sound-dampening effect thereof by a touching of said speaker-carrying second panel member by said first panel member within said considerable panel area.

17. The invention as set forth in claim 3 in a combination in which the retaining groove means are provided along the side edges of one of the said panel members and operatively interengage the said edges of the other of said panel members.

18. The invention as set forth in claim 3 in a combination in which the said retaining groove means are so located with respect to the portions of the other panel member relatively movably received therein that resilient deformation is imposed by the assembly thereof with the pick-up member operatively on the said sound track.

19. An audible greeting card, comprising:

a pair of members;

means movably interconnecting the members;

a first one of said members having audible-sound-emitting means; and

means actuated by relative movement of the two members for actuating the said audible-sound-emitting means;

the interconnecting means being spacedly located, relative to the path of relative movement of said sound-emitting means and said actuating means, substantially far apart transversely with respect to said path; in a combination in which the said members are such that at least one of said members is resiliently deformed, transversely outwardly with respect to said

path, by the assembly of the two members as interconnected by the said interconnecting means, in a portion of the span of said member extending between the said path and said interconnecting means, the resilient deformation as thereby obtained providing an operatively forceful engagement of said actuating means of the two members.

20. The invention as set forth in claim 19 in a combination in which the two members have side edges and are relatively movably interconnected along said side edges.

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U.S. Cl. X.R.

274—1, 42

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Patent No. 3,462,157 August 19, 1969

Eugene R. Barnett et al.

It is certified that error appears in the above identified patent and that said Letters Patent are hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 3, line 14, cancel "in a combination in which" and insert the same after "function;" in line 21; line 66, "movemenet" should read -- movement --. Column 4, line 28, after "is" insert -- with respect to the axis of the sound track and --.

Signed and sealed this 21st day of April 1970.

(SEAL)
Attest:

Edward M. Fletcher, Jr.
Attesting Officer

WILLIAM E. SCHUYLER, JR
Commissioner of Patents