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PROTECTIVE ENCASING MEANS

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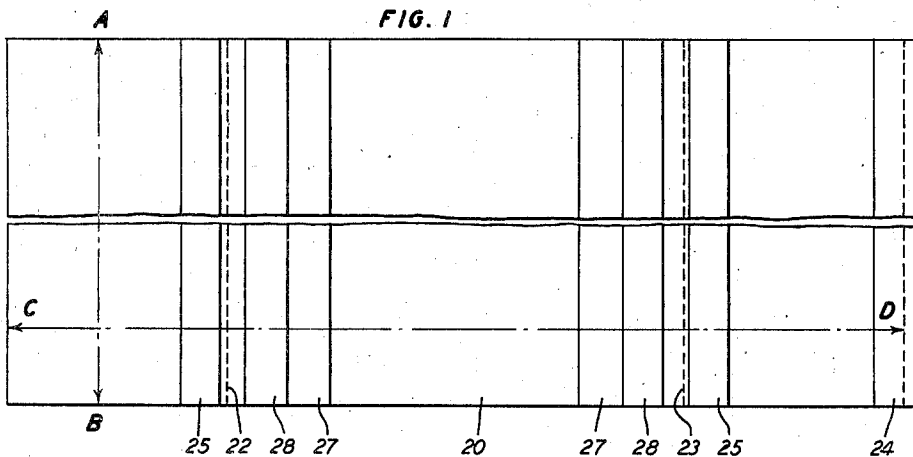


FIG. 2

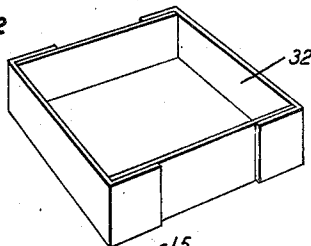


FIG. 3

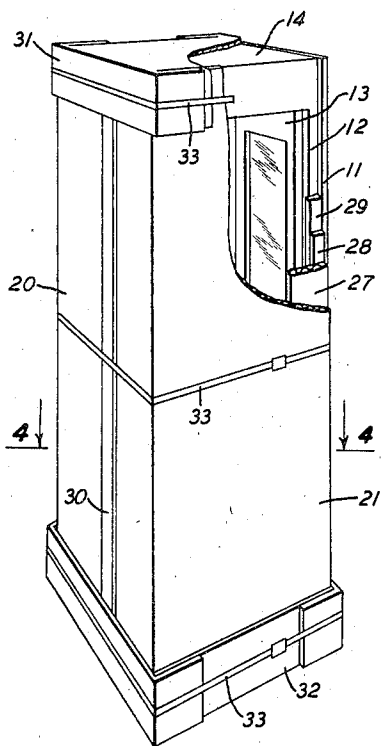
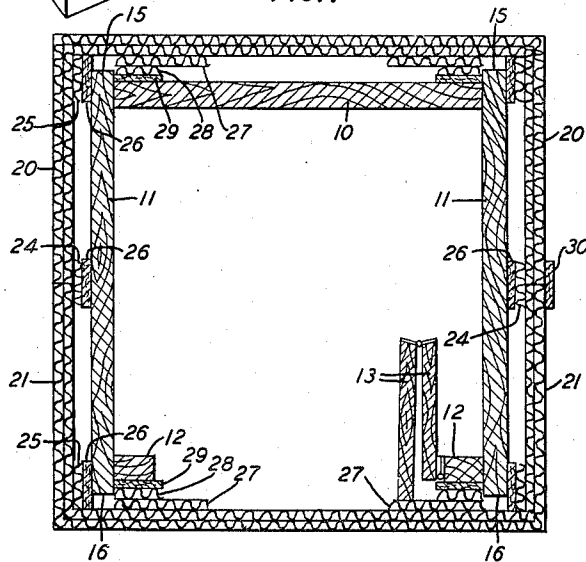


FIG. 4



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3 Claims. (Cl. 229—14)

This invention relates to protective encasing means, and more especially to such means for providing a temporary protective casing for bulky and relatively light weight articles for use in protecting the same during shipment, storage and the like.

There are some articles of commerce, for example, telephone booths, which have highly polished and relatively easily damaged ornamental surfaces and which are also of relatively large bulk in relation to their weight. Crates or cases for the shipment of such articles, if made of wood, metal or the like, may often be heavy enough, when so constructed as to afford the necessary protection for the large polished surfaces of the articles, so that the cost of shipping the case or crate may amount to a considerable fraction of that due to the article itself.

An object of the present invention is to provide protective casing means for cabinets such as telephone booths, radio cabinets, cabinets for medical X-ray apparatus, exhibition cases and the like, which casing means shall be light in weight and yet afford the desiderated protection to an article contained therein.

With the above and other objects in view, the invention may be embodied in protective casing means for a telephone booth, which means comprises a sheet of fiberboard or the like dimensioned to be wrapped or folded prismatically around the booth axially of its longest dimension and to be held in such position on the booth by metal straps, wires, fabric tapes, textile cords or the like encircling the whole, the sheets being provided on the inner faces thereof with members of like material secured thereon and dimensioned and located some to interlock with recesses in surfaces of the booth to prevent shifting of the sheet relatively to the booth and some to space the folded angles of the sheet from the corresponding angles of the booth to permit partial local crushing of the angles of the sheet by the holding means without damage to the angle of the booth thereunder.

Other objects and features of the invention will appear from the following detailed description of one embodiment thereof taken in connection with the accompanying drawing in which the same reference numerals are applied to identical parts in the several figures and in which

Fig. 1 is a developed view of one of two sheets of material, as prepared in accordance with the invention, to be applied as a shipping casing for a telephone booth;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of an end cap to be applied thereover;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view, partly broken away, of a cased booth; and

Fig. 4 is an enlarged section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3 with the doors of the booth omitted.

As herein disclosed the invention is embodied in means for temporarily encasing a wooden telephone booth of ordinary construction, of which only so much is shown as is necessary for a clear understanding of the invention itself. The booth comprises a rear wall 10, two side walls 11 and two front corner posts 12. Doors 13 are hinged to the corner posts to swing inwardly, and, for present purposes, are swung back into open position and wedged or braced there by any suitable means (not shown). A roof member 14 and a floor member (not shown) complete the booth. The side walls 11 extend backwardly a little beyond the rear wall 10 so that about the entire rear face presents a recess between the rear edges 15 of the side walls. Similarly the front edges 16 of the side walls extend forwardly a little beyond the corner posts 12.

The body of the protective casing, as illustrated in the drawing, consists essentially of two substantially identically similar sheets 20 and 21 of some suitable light weight material. In the particular case illustrated this material is the familiar corrugated fiberboard, of which two layers are pasted or glued together face to face to form a single sheet 20 or 21, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch thick, as wide from A to B as the booth is tall, e. g., 83 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches, and as long from C to D as half the overall circumference of the booth body, e. g., 62 $\frac{7}{8}$ inches. It is to be noted that the recess depths of the booth and the thickness dimensions of the casing parts are exaggerated for clarity in the drawing. The sheets 20 and 21 are scored vertically, as shown by the dotted lines 22 and 23 in Fig. 1, to be accurately and easily bent into place around the corners of the booth into the shapes and positions best shown in Fig. 4. Each of the sheets is provided along one vertical edge and on its inner face with a strip 24 of the corrugated fiberboard glued in place to connect and seal together the edge abutted sheets, each faced with a thin padding 26 of non-scratching material such as felt.

Two strips 25 of the corrugated fiberboard are secured against the inner face of each sheet 20 and 21 parallel to, outside of and spaced a short distance respectively from the scorings 22 and 23. These are so located with respect to the scorings that, when the sheets are folded about the booth as shown in Fig. 4, the edge of the strip 25 in each case will abut against the folded up portion of the sheet beyond the fold and thus will stiffen up and strengthen the folded corners of the casing. A thin padding strip 26 of soft non-scratching material, e. g. felt, is glued on the inner face of each strip 25 to provide a safe contact surface against the outer face of the side walls 11 of the booth to which it is applied. Each strip 25 is located and dimensioned to have a small but sufficient bearing on the booth wall

11 and to extend outwardly somewhat beyond the edge of the wall, so that there is a space in each instance between the edge of the wall 11 and the adjacent surface of the casing. Also the sheet is spaced from the wall 11 over almost the entire width of the wall by the thickness of the strips 25 and 26.

A three-thick combination of two corrugated fiberboard strips 27 and 28 with a felt facing strip 29 is also secured to the inner face of each sheet 20 and 21, inside of, parallel to and spaced from each of the scorings 22 and 23, as shown. Strips 27 and 28 have their edges nearest the scorings in each case superimposed in one plane perpendicular to the sheet, and the strip 27 extends on the other side beyond the strip 28 to cover and guard the edge of the door 13. They are so located and dimensioned that, when the sheet is folded about the booth, they will fit into the rear recess of the booth or into the recess at the front corner post. In each instance they will, so to speak, hook around the projecting edge of the side wall 11, which is thus lightly clamped between the strips 26 on the outside and the edges of the strips 28 and 29 on the inside. The strip 29 will overlap the edge of the strip 28 abutted against the side wall and so save the latter from possible scratching by the strip 28 or glue thereon. At the same time the strips 27, 28 and 29 will lift the casing wall out of contact with the rear booth wall.

The two sheets 20 and 21 will ordinarily be secured and sealed together before being put in place by one of the strips 24. After being put in place a securing and sealing strip 30 preferably of strong textile tape or the like, may be glued in place as shown in Figs. 3 and 4, to finally secure together the other abutted edges of the two sheets.

Box-like top and bottom end caps 31 and 32 also preferably formed as shown in Fig. 2 of one or two ply fiberboard may then be slipped over the ends of the arrangement described in the manner indicated in Fig. 3, and the entire cased booth may then have the casing finally secured by some means such as metal straps 33 suitably fastened around the same. If, in so doing, the corners of the casing are locally crushed by the strapping, no injury can come to the underlying corners of the booth within unless the material of the casing is actually cut through completely by an absurdly excessive constriction of the strap during the strapping operation. The first effect of any such crushing of the casing corner, whether by a strap 33 or by accidental other pressure, is to bend the strip 25 and 26 around the edge of the booth wall into the space provided there and thus immediately pad the projecting edge of the side wall, the most vulnerable part of the circumference of the booth, with a plurality of thicknesses of protective material including the felt innermost strip 26 in direct contact. Furthermore, under normal conditions the only contact of the casing with the polished surfaces of the circumference of the booth is at the ten felt strips 26 and 29, while any rubbing of these felts laterally on the booth surfaces is prevented by the gripping of each of the projecting front and rear edges of the side walls of the booth between a strip 26 and a strip 29.

In case the booth, or other article to be cased, does not have recessed surfaces to afford inter-

lock with the pad strips as shown, the construction of the main casing body is nevertheless substantially the same to provide the spaces at each corner between the strip 26 and the strips 28 and 29. In such a case one of the strips 27 or 28 may be omitted since there is no recess to be entered. It is also to be noted that, while the body of the casing is herein shown as composed of two sheets 20 and 21, attached together by the sealing strip 24, the body may also be in one continuous sheet requiring only the closure strip 30.

The embodiment of the invention herein disclosed is illustrative and may be variously modified and departed from, especially when applied to other articles, without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as pointed out in and limited solely by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. Protective casing means for telephone booths and the like articles which articles have recesses in the outer lateral surfaces thereof, the casing means comprising a body member consisting of a sheet of relatively rigid and light weight material to be folded into a prismatic tube about the article to be encased, buffer strips of like material attached to the inner surface of the sheet and located thereon, some to lie longitudinally along the edges of the article to space the sheet from contact with the article enclosed therein and some to enter into recesses in the article to lock the sheet against being shifted thereon, and means to secure together the abutted edges of the folded sheet, two of the said buffer strips being so located as to grip a protruding part of the article between them.

2. Protective casing means for telephone booths and the like articles which articles have recesses in the outer lateral surfaces thereof, the casing means comprising a body member consisting of a sheet of relatively rigid and light weight material to be folded into a prismatic tube about the article to be encased, buffer strips of like material attached to the inner surface of the sheet and located thereon, some to lie longitudinally along the edges of the article to space the sheet from contact with the article enclosed therein and some to enter into recesses in the article to lock the sheet against being shifted thereon, two of the said buffer strips being so located as to grip a protruding part of the article between them.

3. Protective casing means for telephone booths and the like articles which articles have recesses in the outer lateral surfaces thereof, the casing means comprising a body member consisting of a sheet of relatively rigid and light weight material to be folded into a prismatic tube about the article to be encased, buffer strips of like material attached to the inner surface of the sheet and located thereon, some to lie longitudinally along the edges of the article to space the sheet from contact with the article enclosed therein and some to enter into recesses in the article to lock the sheet against being shifted thereon, means to secure together the abutted edges of the folded sheet, and a layer of non-scratching material on the contact faces of the buffer strips, two of the said buffer strips being so located as to grip a protruding part of the article between them.

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