Dec. 15, 1959 F. D. MEYER 2,916,843

SIMULATED CHRISTMAS TREE

Filed April 20, 1959

Fig. 1.

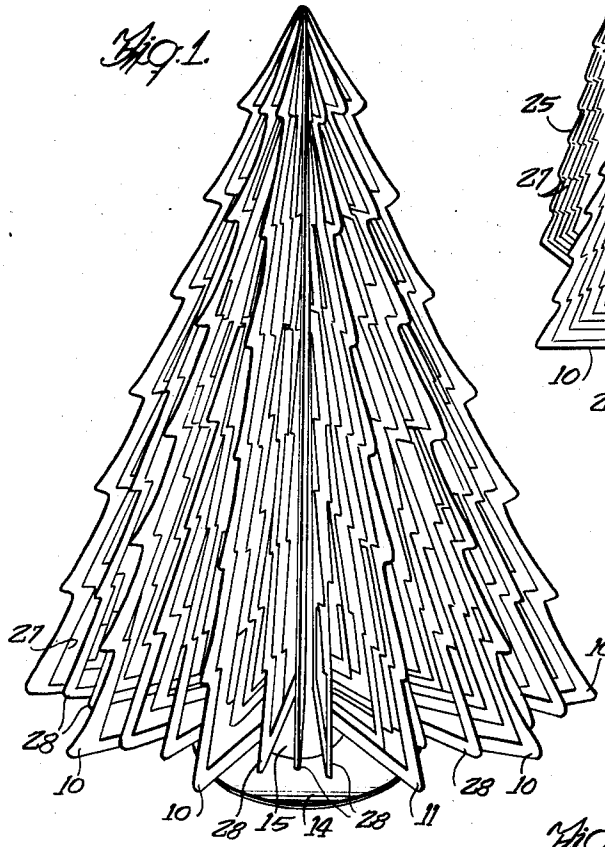

Fig. 2.

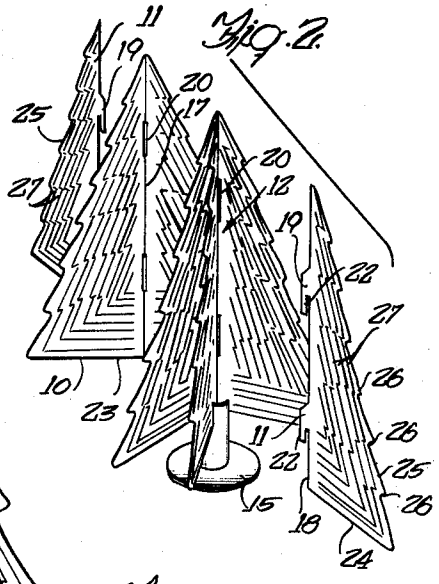

Fig. 3.

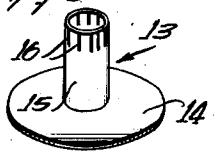

Fig. 4.

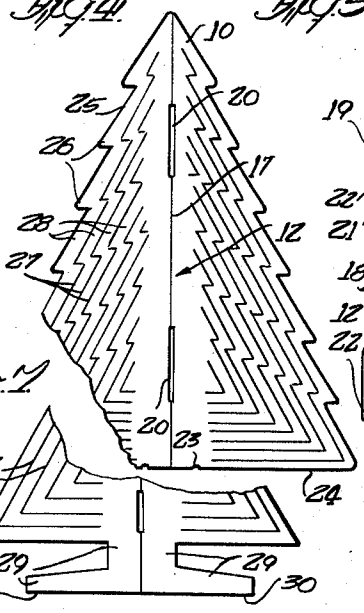

Fig. 5.

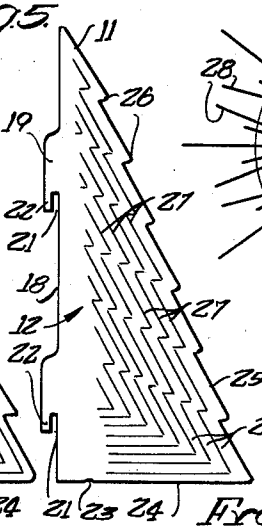

Fig. 6.

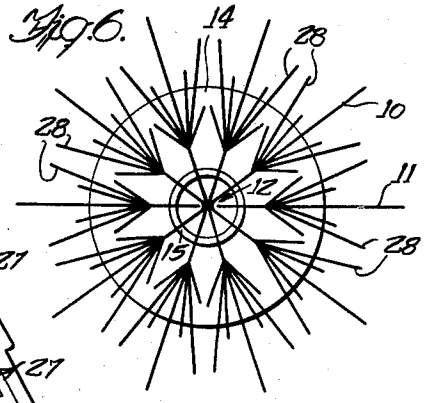

Fig. 7.

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SIMULATED CHRISTMAS TREE

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2 Claims. (Cl. 41—15)

This invention relates to artificial Christmas trees formed of sheet material such as cardboard and the primary object is to construct such a tree in a novel manner enabling it to be shipped in flattened condition but to be assembled to obtain a full branched effect simulating the appearance of an actual fir or other type of evergreen tree used in connection with the observance of Christmas.

Another object is to utilize a plurality of sheets to provide a realistic appearance of a Christmas tree by connecting the sheets together in a novel manner and forming the sheets with separable sections projecting into the spaces between adjacent sheets.

A more detailed object is to shape the individual sections of each sheet the same as the periphery of a tree thereby enhancing the full-bodied appearance of the tree.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a front perspective view of an assembled Christmas tree embodying the novel features of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is an exploded perspective view of the tree;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of one form of a supporting base member;

Figs. 4 and 5 are side elevational views of a full sheet and a halft sheet respectively of the tree;

Fig. 6 is a diagrammatic plan view of the assembled tree; and

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary side elevational view of a flat sheet showing a modified base member.

The present invention is especially adapted for simulating the appearance of evergreen trees such as fir trees used in connection with the observance of Christmas. In general such trees are full bodied with short trunks and are of inverted V-shape. The artificial tree illustrated in the drawings for simulating this appearance comprises a plurality of flat sheets **10** and **11** of material radiating from an upright central or trunk portion **12** and supported in vertical planes on a base **13**. The base has a flat bottom adapted to rest on a horizontal supporting surface and connected to the trunk portion of the tree. In the form shown in Figs. 1 to 6, the base comprises a flat annular plate **14** which is secured to the lower end of an upstanding tubular support **15**. Around its upper end portion, this support is slotted at angularly spaced points as indicated at **16** to receive lower edge portions of the different sheets and maintain the sheets in angularly spaced relation.

To simulate the tree of inverted V-shape, the individual sheets **10** and **11** have a similar peripheral outline. In the present instance, there are four sheets **10** of inverted V-shape which may be referred to as full sheets. Also, there are two sheets **11** which have the same shape as one-half of each full sheet and may be referred to as half-sheets. All of these sheets are secured together at the trunk portion **12** of the tree and generally along a line **17**

which bisects the full sheets and extends along a vertical edge **18** of each half-sheet. The full sheets lie side by side in the finally assembled tree and their halves radiate at different angles from the trunk. The half sheets **11** extend transversely of the full sheets and lie substantially in a common plane bisecting the angles of the halves of the full sheets. To fasten the half sheets to the full sheets and the latter to each other, tabs **19** project from the vertical edges **18** of the half sheets and through aligned slots **20** in the full sheets and are recessed at **21** adjacent their lower ends to receive the full sheets adjacent the lower ends of the slots and form depending lugs **22**. The latter engage the outer sides of the outermost full sheets to lock all of the sheets together after the tabs are passed through the slots, the tabs of each half sheet lying alongside the tabs of the other half sheet within the slots.

After the sheets thus are secured rigidly together along the junction line **17**, their lower edge portions are fit into the slots **16** in the tubular support **15** so that the different sheet halves are disposed in vertical planes angularly spaced around the junction line, short vertical slots **23** (Figs. 4 and 5) being cut in the bottom edge portions of the sheets to receive the upper end of the support and prevent shifting of the sheet in a vertical plane relative to the support. The peripheral edges of each half sheet and each half of the full sheets extend horizontally and outwardly from the tubular support along a straight line **24** and then upwardly and inwardly to a point spaced above the support. The upwardly-inclined portion is indicated at **25** and has spaced points **26** defined by a zigzagging of that portion to simulate the periphery of evergreen trees.

In accordance with the present invention, the intermediate portions of the different sheets **10** and **11** between the trunk **12** and the periphery **25** are constructed in a novel manner to extend into the spaces between the radial planes of the sheets and thereby achieve a full-bodied appearance of a tree. To this end, each sheet is cut partially along a plurality of lines extending generally parallel to the periphery of the sheet. Each sheet thus is divided into a plurality of sections or strips **28**, each connected to the trunk and foldable individually away from the plane of the sheet so that the sections may be disposed at different angles with respect to such plane. To rigidify the finished device, the cut lines terminate at the trunk portion **12** of the sheet to leave each section connected to the sheet at two points spaced along the trunk.

The lines **27** of severance of each sheet into its individual sections in this instance follow a zigzag pattern like that of the outer side edges **25** in parallelism with such edges and then extend horizontally in parallelism with the straight bottom edges **24** of the sheet. Due to its connection at two points spaced along the trunk **12** of each sheet, each individually foldable section retains some rigidity and also remains in contact with adjacent sections at the points of connection to the trunk so as to produce a friction between the adjacent sections tending to retain the sections in whatever relative positions they have been moved. The trunk **12** of each sheet between the ends of the various sections and the junction line **17** on the full sheets or vertical edge **18** of the half sheets remain imperforate thereby adding rigidity to the finished tree.

The material used for the sheets preferably is flexible to enable the sheets to be bent so that the halves thereof can be located in the different radial planes and the individual sections **28** can be bent out at the desired angles with respect to each plane. At the same time, some rigidity in the material is desired to enable the tree to stand by itself. A suitable material for larger sized trees is cardboard. Metal could also be used.

It will be seen that the improved tree can be shipped easily with the sheets **10** and **11** disconnected and lying flat against each other. From this condition, the full sheets **10** are arranged with their slots **20** in alignment and the tabs **19** and lugs **22** on the half sheets **11** then are projected through the aligned slots and interlocked with the full sheets. The half sheets and the halves of the various full sheets then are disposed in the desired radial planes and are inserted into the slots **16** in the tubular support **15** with the recesses **23** in the bottom edges of the sheets receiving the tubular support adjacent the bottoms of the slots. Once the connected sheets are mounted properly on the tubular support, the individually foldable sections **28** are bent out from opposite sides of each sheet and at different angles with respect to the plane of the sheet as shown in Fig. 6. The tree then is completely assembled and ready for use.

To enable the base **13** to be shipped in flattened condition and to simplify the construction, this part may be formed in a plurality of sections **29** each secured to and depending from the respective full sheets **10** and half sheets **11** and having flat bottom edges **30** adapted to engage a horizontal surface to support the sheets in a vertical plane. Such a modified construction is shown in Fig. 7. Preferably, these sections are formed integral with the sheets thereby enabling them to be cut out at the same time as the sheets.

By virtue of the individually foldable strips **28** of each of the sheets **10** and **11**, the finished tree has a very full-bodied appearance closely simulating the appearance of a real evergreen tree. Being connected to its associated sheet at two spaced points, each strip is rigidified and, due to the frictional engagement with adjacent strips at a plurality of points, tends to remain in the adjusted position to which it is folded initially. Also, the central or trunk portion **12** of each sheet adjacent the junction line **17** remains imperforate so as to strengthen the finished tree.

I claim as my invention:

1. A simulated Christmas tree having, in combination, a plurality of sheets of foldable material secured to each other along a common vertically elongated central portion of the tree and radiating therefrom in different planes, said sheets having peripheries of similar shape like the periphery of a tree extending outwardly from one point along said central portion and then inwardly to a spaced point along such portion and each sheet having a plurality of cuts paralleling each other and the periphery of the sheet and dividing the sheet into a plurality of sections each connected to the central portion at spaced points along the portion and foldable out of the plane of the sheet on opposite sides thereof each at an angle different from the angle of other sections with respect to such plane to give the appearance of a full-branched tree, and a base connected to said central portion and adapted to rest on a horizontal surface to support said sheets in vertical planes, the part of each of said sheets along said central portion being of substantial horizontal width to form a rigid self supporting trunk sustaining the weight of said sections and remaining flat when the sections are bent with respect to the sheet.

2. A simulated Christmas tree comprising a plurality of flat sheets of flexible material secured together along a common juncture line and radiating therefrom at different angles in angularly spaced vertical planes with the periphery of each sheet extending first horizontally and outwardly from said support and said juncture line at the lower edge of the sheet and then inwardly and upwardly along a zigzag path to the juncture line whereby a profile of the sheet is generally of inverted V-shape, each of said sheets having a plurality of cuts made along lines paralleling said periphery of the sheet and spaced apart substantially uniform distances from the periphery and each other to define individual sections connected to an inner portion of the sheet adjacent but spaced from said juncture line at spaced points along the line and foldable away from such inner portion at an angle different from the angles of the other sections to provide the appearance of a full-branched tree, said inner portion of each of said sheets having substantial horizontal width to form a rigid trunk and support the weight of said sections of the sheet and remaining flat when the sections are bent relative to the sheet.

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