April 23, 1963 H. A. YOUNT 3,086,645

PORTABLE DISPLAY CASE

Filed Feb. 1, 1961

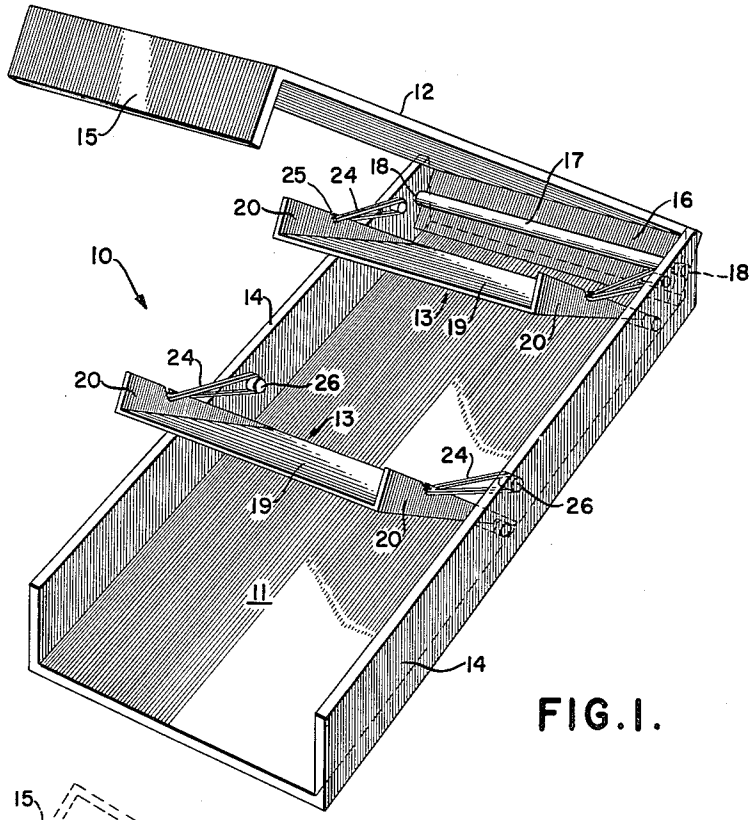


FIG. 1.

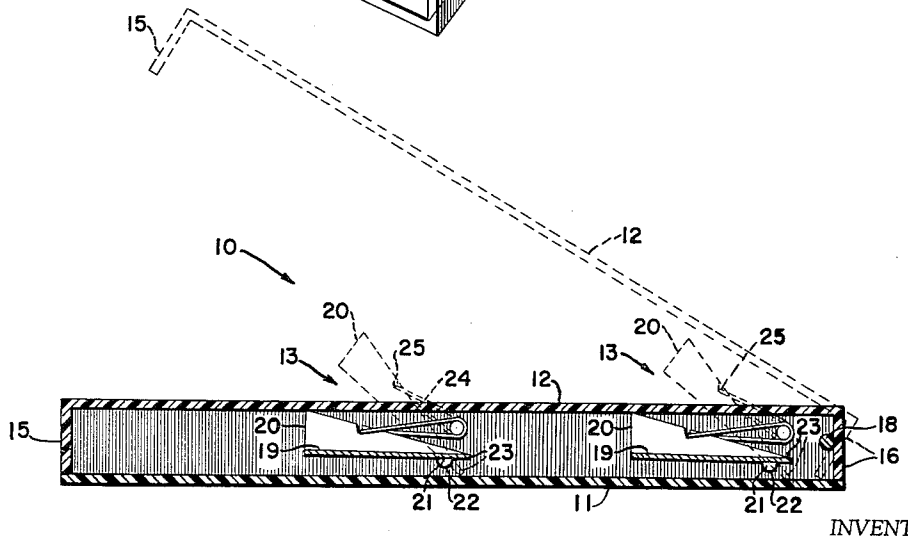


FIG. 2.

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United States Patent Office 3,086,645
Patented Apr. 23, 1963

3,086,645

PORTABLE DISPLAY CASE

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Filed Feb. 1, 1961, Ser. No. 86,438
1 Claim. (Cl. 206—45.13)

This invention relates to a portable display case and has for its principal object the provision of a device of this nature which enables complete display of all its contents when in an open position, and when in a closed position forms a convenient carrying case for the contents thereof.

Another object of this invention is the provision of a portable display case having a plurality of novel, biased trays for displaying its contents.

A further object of this invention is the provision of a portable display case which is simple to construct and which has the attendant feature of low cost of manufacture. These and other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following specification and drawing wherein like numerals refer to similar parts throughout.

In the drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the portable display case showing the cover member in a partly opened position; and

FIGURE 2 is a section taken along a longitudinal axis of the display case showing the cover member in the closed position in solid lines, and the cover member in a partly opened position in dashed lines.

Basically, the portable display case of this invention includes a base member and a cover member secured together by hinge means at one end thereof. A plurality of pivotally mounted trays are disposed in the base member. Means is provided to pivot the trays to a display position upon opening of the cover member, and to a stored position upon closing of the cover member. The portable display case can be constructed of plastic, wood, light metal, or any other light, suitable material. If plastic is used, the case can be made transparent, translucent or opaque.

Referring to the drawing, the portable display case, generally designated as **10**, comprises a base member **11**, a cover member **12** and a plurality of trays **13**. The base member **11** includes a pair of oppositely disposed side walls **14**. Similarly, the cover member includes a pair of oppositely disposed end walls **15** and **16**. The cover member **12** is hinged to the base member **11** by a shaft **17** secured to the end wall **16** and journalled in apertures **18** in the side walls **14**. This construction permits the cover member to be rotated through 180 degrees from its closed position to a fully opened position. The cover member is held in place in the closed position by snapping the end wall **15** between the inside surface of the base member side walls **14**.

The novel trays of this invention, generally designated as **13**, are seen to include a bottom member **19** and a pair of oppositely disposed end walls **20**. The trays **13** are pivoted to the base member **11** by a pair of pins **21** secured to the underside of the bottom member **19** and journalled in apertures **22** in the base member side walls **14**. The trays **13** are adapted to pivot between a stored position as shown by the solid lines in FIGURE 2, and a display position as shown in FIGURE 1 and by the dashed lines in FIGURE 2. Rotary movement of the tray **13** to the display position is limited by securing the pins **21** a short distance from the rear edge **23** of the bottom member **19**. The action of the rear edge **23** striking the base member **11** controls the amount of rotary movement of the trays **13** as best seen in FIGURE 2.

Biasing means is provided to urge the trays **13** to the

display position. As shown in the drawings, the biasing means may include rubber bands **24** secured between a notch **25** in the tray end walls **20** and a projection **26** fastened to the base member side walls **14**. The rubber bands provided should be of an appropriate size to permit them to be placed under slight tension when the tray is in the display position. This provision will preclude disengagement of the rubber bands **24** from the projections **26**.

The trays **13** are adapted to pivot to the stored position by cooperating with the cover member **12**. During closing movement of the cover member **12**, the upper edge of the tray end walls **20** slidably engages the underside of the cover member. This action forces the trays **13** to the stored position as best viewed in FIGURE 2. The tension of the rubber bands is such that the trays **13** are easily depressed to the stored position upon closing of the cover member **12**.

In summary, operation of the novel portable display case is as follows:

The cover member **12** is opened by unsnapping the end wall **15** from the side walls **14** and rotating the member **12** about the shaft **17** journalled to the base member **11**. By this movement, the biasing means comprising the rubber bands **24** urges the trays **13** to the display position as best seen in FIGURE 1. Rotation of the trays **13** is limited by the edge **23** striking the base member **11**. The cover member is closed by rotating the same in the opposite direction. By this action, the tray end walls **20** engage the underside of the cover **12** thereby forcing the trays to the stored position.

As can be seen from the above description and drawing, this invention discloses a novel portable display case which will permit complete display of all its contents when in an open position, and when in a closed position forms a convenient carrying case for the contents thereof. The case can be used to display articles of jewelry, or small articles of haberdashery, for example. The articles can be clipped or secured to the trays in any convenient manner. For economy purposes, as many trays as practicable should be provided in the base member. The goods are best displayed by placing the case on a flat surface and opening the cover member towards the observer. The construction of the case permits the cover member to rotate through 180 degrees and lie in a plane parallel to the bottom surface of the base member. The display case can be of a size that will permit a number of cases to be carried in a brief case or salesman's travelling bag. The portable display case of this invention can be easily constructed at a minimum cost to the user thereof. It is very durable and possesses trouble free operating characteristics. The rubber bands or other biasing means can be quickly and easily replaced when necessary.

It is to be understood that the embodiment shown is for the purpose of illustration only and is not to be taken as the sole form of this invention, in that other embodiments and modifications thereof will fall within the scope of the appended claim.

I claim:

A portable display case comprising a rectangular base member having only a bottom and a pair of oppositely disposed sidewalls, said sidewalls having a top and a bottom edge with the bottom edge connected to said base member, a plurality of trays pivotally mounted on the interior of the sidewalls of said base member intermediate the top and bottom edges thereof, each of said trays having an inner and an outer end each extending generally transverse to said sidewalls, a first axis means intermediate said ends, said inner end extending beyond said first axis means, each of said trays having a pair of oppositely disposed sidewalls on the remote side of said first axis means, at least one sidewall having a notch therein intermediate its outer end and said first axis means, a pin mounted on

the adjacent sidewall of said base member and extending inwardly above the first axis means, a rubber band connecting said pin and said respective notch, each of said trays having an open and a closed position, said rubber band being of length with respect to the distance between said pin and said notch that it is under tension when each of said trays are in the open position and under greater tension when each of said trays are in a closed position, said first axis means being in spaced position from said inner end so that in said open position of said trays the inner ends of each of the trays lie in contacting relation with said base member and act as a stop to limit the outward swing of said trays, the combination of said rubber band, said inner end of each said tray and said base member acting together for biasing and retaining each of said trays in the open position under tension, and a rectangular cover member having a top and a pair of oppositely disposed end walls, a second axis means extending parallel to said first axis means and pivotally mounting said cover

member adjacent one end thereof to said sidewalls of the base member, whereby movement of said cover member in said first rotary direction allows said trays to pivot in said first rotary direction to the open position under influence of the rubber band biasing means, and movement of said cover member in said second rotary direction forces said trays in said second direction to a closed position against the action of said rubber band biasing means and increasing the tension therein.

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