No. 642,558. Patented Jan. 30, 1900.

E. OLDENBUSCH.

PICTURE FRAME.

(Application filed Aug. 12, 1899.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

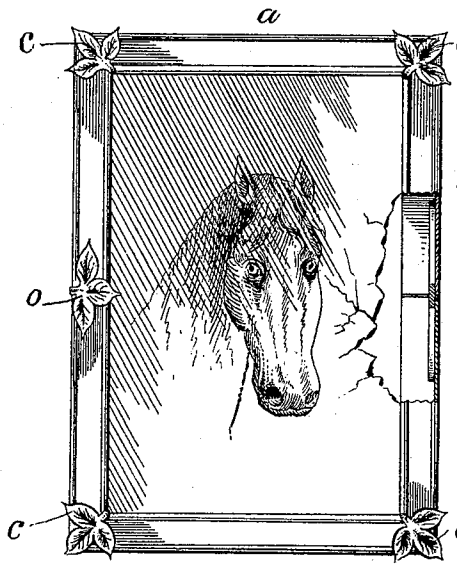


Fig. 3.

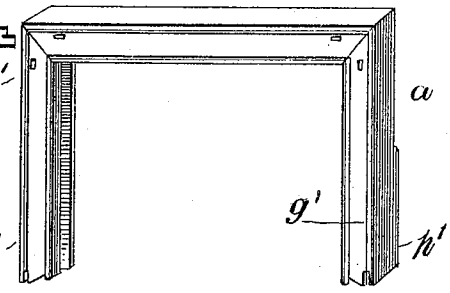


Fig. 4.

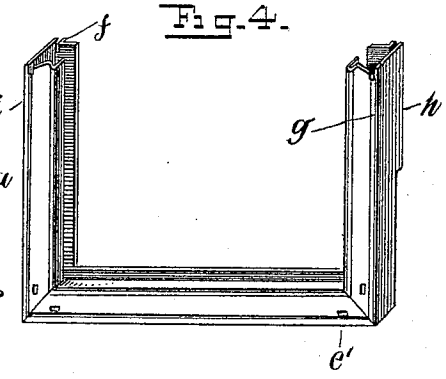


Fig. 2.

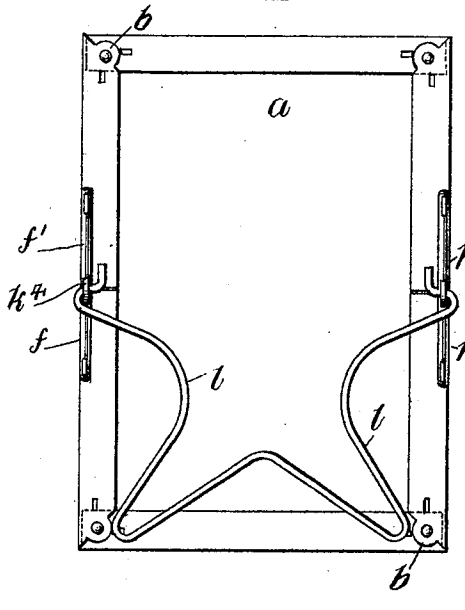


Fig. 5.

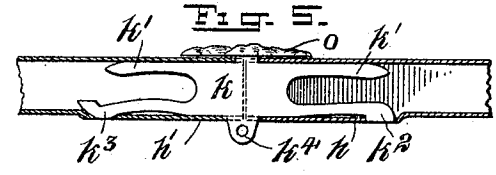


Fig. 6.

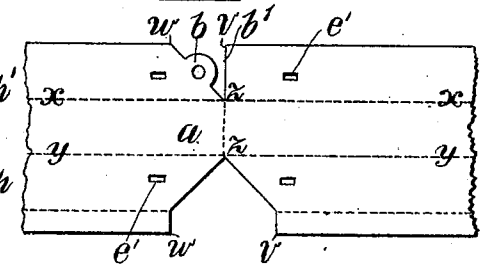
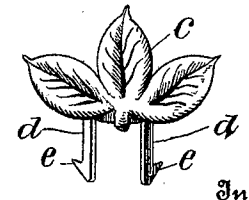


Fig. 7.



Witnesses:
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THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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PICTURE-FRAME.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 642,558, dated January 30, 1900.

Application filed August 12, 1899. Serial No. 726,977. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ERNEST OLDENBUSCH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Weehawken, in the county of Hudson and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Frame for Pictures, Mirrors, Show-Cards, and Similar Articles, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in frames; and the object of my invention is to provide a dust-proof frame of simple and economical construction and having a detachable ornamental corner-strengthening device. I attain this object by the invention illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents a plan view of my improved frame, partly in section. Fig. 2 is the reverse side of the frame. Figs. 3 and 4 are views in perspective of the frame with the parts separated. Fig. 5 is a view of the coupler. Fig. 6 is an illustration of a strip of sheet metal or other material cut to form the corner and ready to be rolled or folded into the desired shape. Fig. 7 is a view of my improved corner-fastening device.

Similar letters refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

a is a strip of sheet metal or other suitable material which I fold at the dotted lines *x x*, *y y*, and *z z*, Fig. 6, having first cut out the solid lines *w z v* on each side of the strip of metal at the points where I desire to form my corners, but leaving a projection at *b*, through which I pass a rivet to bind the parts firmly together. If desired, however, solder may be used instead of the rivet shown. This side I prefer to use as the back of my frame.

The cut lines *v z* and *z w* upon the lower side of the strip of metal as it appears at Fig. 6 will fit together and form a miter-joint for the front of the frame. This corner may be fastened by solder or in any other desired manner; but I prefer to use my improved fastener shown at Fig. 7, in which *c* is an ornamental button or other device having two or more pins or projections *d d*, provided with barbed or enlarged ends *e e*. These pins or projections I pass through previously-prepared openings *e'* in the frame, as shown. The barbed ends engaging with the back of the frame form a simple but efficient fastening. One of the many advantages of the corner ornament or fastener is that no heat or solder is required, and it is possible therefore to use the most delicate design without risk, and also when desired to use ornamental corner-pieces of a metal contrasting in color to that of the body of the frame.

My frame, as shown, consists of two parts or members; but one of the advantages of my invention is that the sides and ends may consist of as many parts as desired, each pair of parts or members being provided with my improved coupler, and the sides and end of the frame may thus be extended or lengthened to any desired size. The coupler may be used at the top and bottom of the frame when desired without departing from the spirit of my invention.

At the ends of the frame members I form sockets *f*, *g*, *h*, *i*, *f'*, *g'*, *h'*, and *i'* to receive the spring projections of the couplers *k k*, which are formed of steel or other spring material. In the sockets on one side of the frame I provide recesses for the catches k^2 and k^3 of the couplers *k k*.

At each corner of the coupler *k* I provide spring projections or guides, two or more of which, as k^2 and k^3, have lugs or catches. I find it preferable to provide one of the lugs or catches on each coupler with straight sides, so as to make the connection positive and secure, as shown at k^2, while another on the same side of the coupler is preferably provided with inclined sides, as shown at k^3, which will yield when a moderate force is applied and permit the parts to be separated. All of the catches may be of the same pattern, however, if desired. I also provide my improved coupler with a lug k^4, which serves as a pivotal connection for the supporting-brace *l l*. This lug may be cut out of the side of the frame when desired.

To insert a picture or other object in my improved frame, the parts or members are separated, the couplers *k k* are inserted within their respective sockets in one member, and one edge of the picture or other object which it is desired to inclose is placed with-

in the slot in such frame member. The ends of the parts or members are then brought together, the projecting ends of the couplers will enter their corresponding slots in the other frame member, and by means of the catch and socket the parts or frame members will be held firmly in place and the whole will present the appearance of a solid unjointed frame. If desired, an ornamental button or other device *o* may be used to cover the point where the two parts meet and may be attached to the coupler *k*.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A sheet-metal frame for pictures and similar articles the four sides of which are tubular in cross-section and are provided with an interior longitudinal slot, upon one face of which the edges of the sheet metal meet on a line bisecting the angle of junction, and upon the reverse face of which the edges of the sheet metal overlap, both of such faces having one or more apertures, substantially as shown and described.

2. A sheet-metal frame for pictures and similar articles having a corner-fastening device consisting of a body portion and two or more projections extending from such body portion, at approximately right angles and passing through one or more faces of such frame, each of such projections being provided with a lug or barb substantially as shown and described.

3. A separable frame for pictures and similar articles, having two or more parts each of which is provided with one or more sockets in combination with a coupling device consisting of a body portion and two or more projecting springs provided with lugs substantially as shown and described.

4. In a separable frame for pictures and similar articles a coupler provided with a lug to which is pivotally connected a supporting-brace, substantially as shown and described.

5. A separable sheet-metal frame having three or more sides, at the corner of which at one side the edges of the sheet metal meet on a line bisecting the angle of junction, and at the other side of which the edges of the sheet metal overlap, in combination with a corner-fastener having one or more toothed lugs or barbs extending through the frame at the corner, and a coupler having projecting springs fitting into sockets in the frame, substantially as shown and described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ERNEST OLDENBUSCH.

Witnesses:

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ANDREW FOULDS, Jr.