July 8, 1958 R. E. MAPLE 2,841,901

COLLAPSIBLE TREE FORM FOR CHRISTMAS CARDS AND THE LIKE

Filed March 9, 1956 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

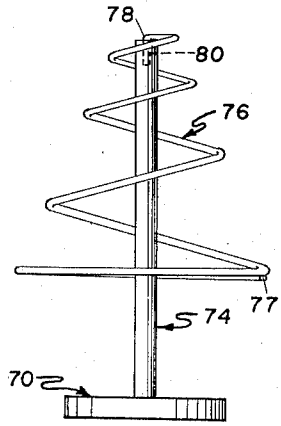


Fig. 5

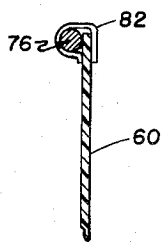


Fig. 6

Fig. 1

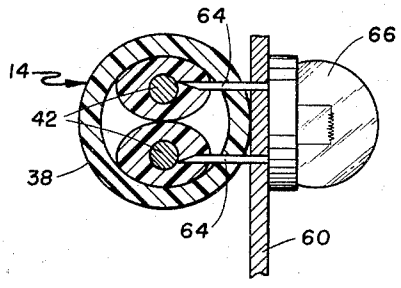


Fig. 2

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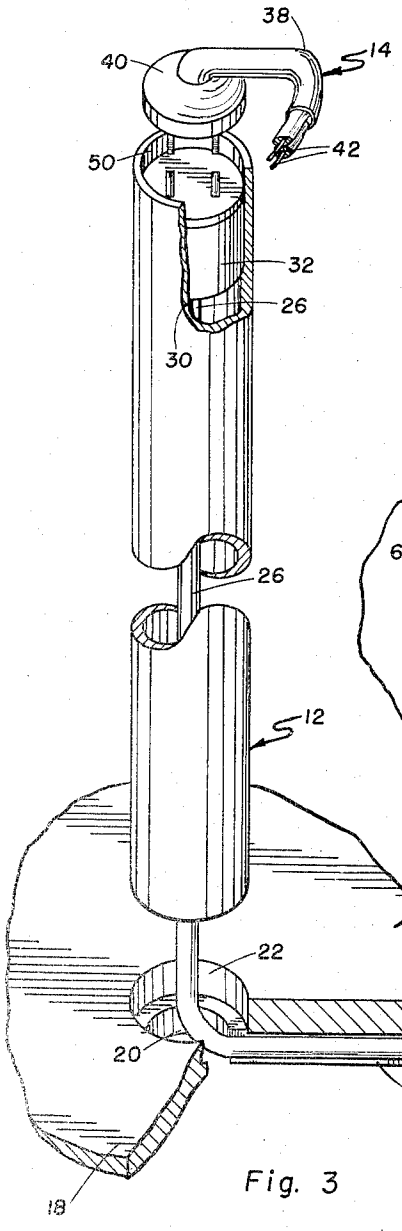


Fig. 3

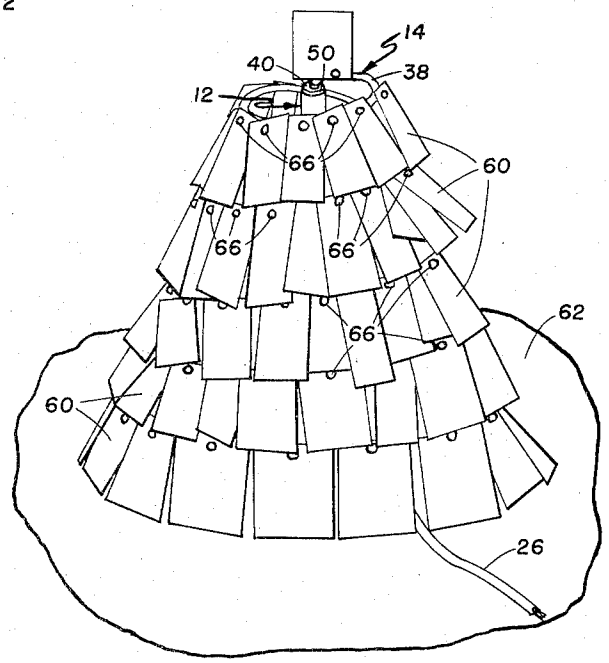


Fig. 4

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COLLAPSIBLE TREE FORM FOR CHRISTMAS CARDS AND THE LIKE

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Application March 9, 1956, Serial No. 570,622

3 Claims. (Cl. 40—124)

The present invention relates generally to display holders and more particularly to a collapsible support for displaying Christmas cards and the like.

The primary object of this invention is to provide a collapsible support for attractive display of Christmas cards, the support simulating a Christmas tree in shape, especially when substantially fully covered with cards.

Another object of this invention is to provide a holder which can be electrified and illuminated, the novel means for securing the cards on the form having a secondary function in illumination of the cards.

Another object of this invention is to provide a collapsible holder of the aforementioned character which is easily assembled and disassembled for transportation or storage between seasonal usage.

Another object of this invention is to provide a holder which is adapted for fabrication from many different materials, so that the choice of material can be according to the dictates of vailability and price considerations, the exact sizes and proportions being matters easily determined to suit particular conditions and needs.

Another object of this invention is to provide a holder which is practicable and inexpensive to manufacture.

Finally, it is an object to provide a collapsible form of the aforementioned character which is simple, safe and convenient to use and which will give generally efficient and durable service.

With these and other objects definitely in view, this invention consists in the novel construction, combination and arrangement of elements and portions, as will be hereinafter fully described in the specification, particularly pointed out in the claims, and illustrated in the drawings which form a material part of this disclosure, and in which:

Figure 1 is an elevational view of the collapsible support, portions being removed for a clear presentation of the arrangement of internal portions.

Figure 2 is a greatly enlarged, cross-sectional view of the helical member and showing the preferred means of attaching a Christmas card or the like thereto, the card being shown only fragmentarily.

Figure 3 is a fragmentary, exploded, perspective view of the device and showing the means of engagement between component parts.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the device having a plurality of cards or the like secured thereon.

Figure 5 is an elevational view of a modification of the device.

Figure 6 is a view similar to Figure 2, greatly reduced in size and showing the means of attaching a card to the modified form Figure 5.

Similar characters of reference indicate similar or identical elements and portions throughout the specification and throughout the views of the drawing.

Many types of forms, racks, and trays have been developed for attractively displaying Christmas cards and the like and in some instances, general illumination for

the cards arrayed thereon has been provided. However, these prior art holders are unwieldly and difficult to assemble and disassemble, and individual illumination of the cards is not provided. The instant invention provides an easily assembled and disassembled structure on which cards may be suspended, closely adjacent to each other or even overlapping and which holds said cards in a generally conical arrangement, roughtly simulating and suggesting a Christmas tree. In the preferred form, the instant invention also provides for simple and effective illumination as well as display of individual cards suspended therefrom, furthering the simulation of an illuminated Christmas tree.

In reference now be had to Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the drawings, the preferred form of the instant invention may be seen as comprising a base **10**, a hollow, cylindrical standard **12** engaging the base **10** and vertically extended therefrom, and a resilient, helical member **14** supported on the top of the standard **12** and extending downwardly with the standard as an axis.

The base **10** comprises simply a disc **18** of wood or other suitable material and is provided with an axial bore **20** therethrough, the upper portion of the bore **20** being enlarged to form a socket or seat **22** to receive the lower end of the standard **12**. A radial channel **24** in the lower surface of the base **10**, communicates with the bore **20** to allow a 2-wire conductor cord **26** to extend therethrough and enter the standard **12**.

The standard **12** is provided with an internal seat **30**, inwardly of the upper end, to allow a cylindrical female plug **32** to rest securely thereon, said plug **32** being of a diameter to frictionally engage the standard **12**.

The helical member **14** comprises a resilient, insulative sheath **38** provided with a male plug **40** rigidly attached to the inner end thereof, this plug **40** also functioning as a support for the upper end of the helical member on the upper end of the standard **12** when the plug **40** is engaged with the female plug **32**. Two insulated conductors **42** within the sheath **38** are substantially coextensixe therewith. The lowermost coil or turn **44** of the member **14** may be maintained substantially horizontal if care is taken to place only light weight cards thereon, it being obvious that the weight of the member itself and the weight of cards placed thereon will result in sufficient sagging of the outer coils to result in assumption of a generally conical or tree form. The end of the helix is secured as at **45**.

As a means to strengthen the engagement between the plug **40** and the plug **32**, the plug **32** is recessed below the upper end of the standard, thus forming an annular shoulder **50** extending above the uppermost end of the plug **32**. The plug **40**, being in frictional engagement with the shoulder **50** as well as engagement with the plug **32**, prevents inadvertent dislodgement and misalignment of the helical member **14**.

The cord **26** is provided with a male plug **56**, on the end remote from the plug **32**, for engagement with a conventional convenience outlet (not shown in the drawings), thus providing electrical energy to the conductors **42**.

A plurality of Christmas cards **60** and the like, suspended in closely spaced, overlapping relation along the body **14**, provide weight deflecting the member **14** into a position as indicated by dash lines in Figure 1, or possibly to a position at which the cards **60** suspended on the lowermost coil **44** contact the supporting surface **62**. Thus, it can be clearly seen that the plurality of cards **60** retained by the member **14** present a roughly tree-shaped, or at least conical, vari-colored appearance which is attractive, while holding the cards **60** readily accessible for individual observation.

Reference is now made specifically to Figure 2 wherein

the preferred means for attaching a card **60** or the like to the helical member **14** is illustrated. Sharpened, prong contacts **64** of a glow lamp **66** perforate a card **60**, the sheath **38**, and the insulation of the conductors **42**, to contact the conductors **42**, holding the card **60** firmly in position, and energizing the lamp **66**, which provides individual illumination for the card **60**.

Referring now to Figures 5 and 6, a modified form of the invention is shown as comprising a base **70** having an axial socket corresponding to the socket **22**, a cylindrical standard **74** engaged therein and extending vertically upward therefrom, and a helical member **76** of resilient wire or the like engaging the top of the standard **74**. The upper end of the member **76** is bent as at **78** to extend vertically downward, engaging an axial socket **80** in the end of the standard **74**. The end **77** of the member **76** is secured to constitute a closed circular coil adjacent the base **70**.

In this modification, spring clips **82** are preferred to suspend the cards **60** from the member **76**, but many devices such as colored, plastic clothes pins or the like may be used.

The operation of this invention will be clearly comprehended from a consideration of the foregoing description of the mechanical details thereof, taken in connection with the drawing and the above recited objects. It will be obvious that all said objects are amply achieved by this invention.

Further description would appear to be unnecessary.

It is understood that minor variation from the form of the invention disclosed herein may be made without departure from the spirit and scope of the invention, and that the specification and drawing are to be considered as merely illustrative rather than limiting.

I claim:

1. A collapsible tree form for Christmas cards and the like comprising; a base; an upright standard removably mounted on said base; and a resilient card support member of generally helical form mounted at the center thereof on the top of said standard; said member comprising an elongated resilient sheath having two insulated electrical conductors coextensive therewith and enclosed therein; means for securing and illuminating a card on said member comprising a lamp having prong terminals capable of insertion through a card and said sheath to contact said conductors.

2. A collapsible tree form for Christmas cards and the like comprising; a base; an upright standard removably mounted on said base; and a resilient card support member of generally helical form mounted at the center thereof on the top of said standard; said member comprising an elongated resilient sheath having two insulated electrical conductors substantially coextensive therewith and enclosed therein; and including glow lamps having the prongs thereof sharpened and elongated to perforate and to span cards to be supported thereby, and piercing said sheath to contact said conductors, thereby energizing said lamps and providing individual illumination of said cards as well as affixing said cards to said member.

3. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said member has a disconnect plug at the top of said standard; and said standard is hollow to receive electrical lead wires connected to said plug; said base having a seat to receive the lower end of said standard in frictional engagement; whereby the apparatus is adapted to be completely knocked down and collapsed for storage and transportation.

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