June 1, 1937. H. E. SCHARLING 2,082,082

PICTURE FRAME

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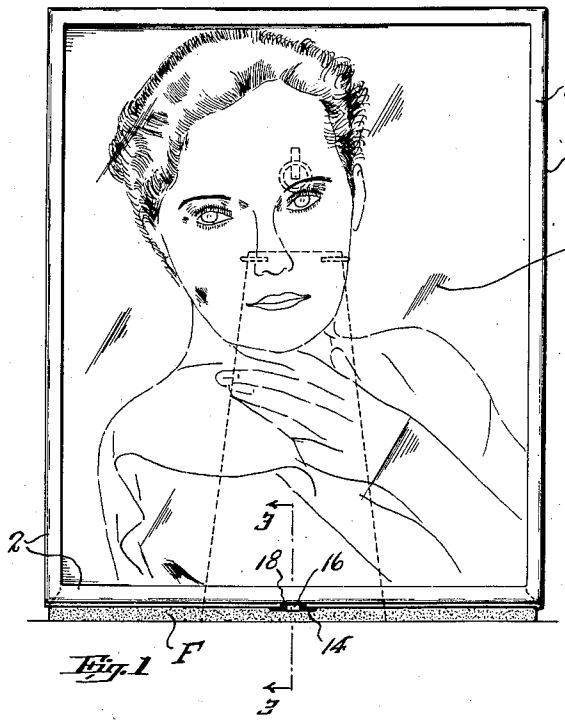

Fig. 1

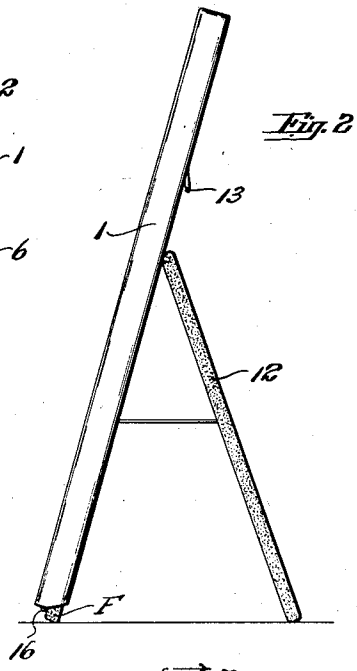

Fig. 2

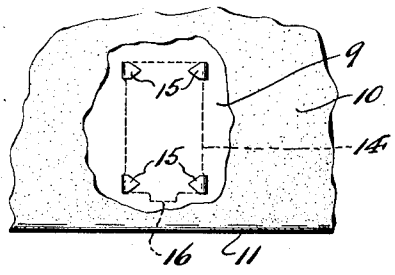

Fig. 5

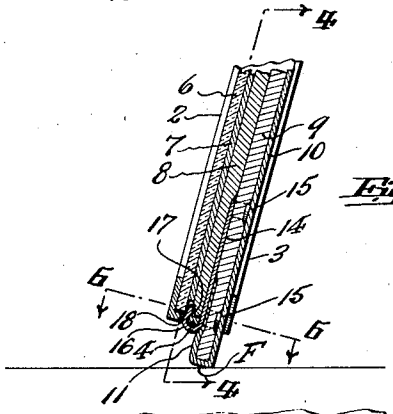

Fig. 3

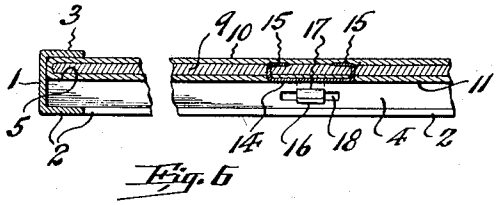

Fig. 6

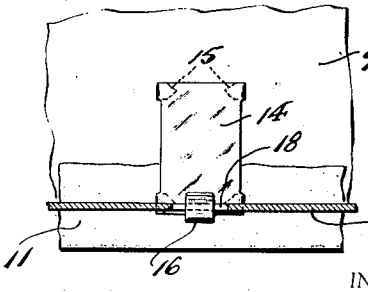

Fig. 4

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PICTURE FRAME

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Application June 12, 1936, Serial No. 84,853

4 Claims. (Cl. 40—152.1)

This invention relates to improvements in picture frames and similar articles; and the invention has reference, more particularly, to a novel picture frame structure having removable back and means to interlock the back to the main frame against warping, gapping or other displacement with risk of escape or disarrangement of the enclosed picture or the like.

This invention has for an object to provide a novel frame structure having a removable back, said frame and back having cooperative means for interlocking the same together in operative assembled relation.

The invention has for another object to provide a frame structure having a back slidable thereinto from the lower end of the frame; said back, when thus assembled with the frame, having its lower end portion projecting downwardly from the frame per se so as to form a footing or support; said lower projecting end portion of the back having an external covering of non-abrasive material; and means being provided to interlock said lower end of the back to the frame per se so as to prevent warping, gapping or other relative displacement of frame and back.

Other objects of this invention, not at this time more particularly enumerated, will be understood from the following detailed description of the same.

An illustrative embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front face view of a frame structure according to this invention; Fig. 2 is a side edge elevation of the same; Fig. 3 is a fragmentary vertical section, taken on line 3—3 in Fig. 1, but drawn on an enlarged scale; Fig. 4 is a transverse vertical section, taken on line 4—4 in Fig. 3; Fig. 5 is a fragmentary rear face view of the back per se, with covering parts broken away; and Fig. 6 is a fragmentary horizontal section, taken on line 6—6 in said Fig. 3.

Similar characters of reference are employed in the above described views, to indicate corresponding parts.

Referring to the drawing, the reference character 1 indicates a main frame, which may be made of metal or any other suitable material; said frame 1 having a front face flange 2 extending around the entire periphery thereof, and a back face flange 3 extending only across the top and down the sides thereof. The bottom portion 4 of frame 1 is cut away to provide across the width of the frame, between the free edge of said bottom portion 4 and the plane of said back face flange 3, an opening 5, through which the glass front 6, picture 7 and cushioning member 8 and eventually the frame back member itself may be entered and thus disposed within and in operative assembled relation to the main frame; said bottom portion 4 serving as a supporting ledge for the glass, etc., when deposited within the frame.

The reference character 9 indicates the removable back member or panel for the frame. This may be made of any suitable sheet material of proper thickness, such as heavy cardboard, wood, metal, etc. Said back member or panel 9 is provided with a covering material 10 extending over and preferably adhered to its exterior rear face. Marginal portions 11 of said covering material are inturned and bound around the periphery of said back member or panel 9 and secured or adhered to the inner face of the latter. This covering material is preferably made of soft, non-abrasive material, such as a suitable textile material, e. g. velvet, or it may be made of leather, paper or any other material having relatively non-abrasive characteristics. Said back member or panel 9, as thus constituted, possesses a width to slidingly fit into and between the sides of the frame 1, so as to be overlapped by the back face flange 3 of the latter; and the same possesses a length somewhat in excess of the total length of the frame 1, so that, when inserted within the latter, a lower marginal end portion thereof will project clear of the lower end of frame 1, thereby being adapted to serve as a footing F for resting the frame suitably erected upon the surface of a table, shelf or other place where the frame and its content is desired to be displayed. Owing to the provision, in connection with said back member or panel, non-abrasive covering material 10, marginal portions 11 of which extend over and around said projecting lower end thereof, the footing afforded by said lower end is non-abrasive, and consequently all risk of scratching the surface upon which the frame is stood is avoided. Hinged, in any suitable manner, to the rear exterior face of said back member or panel 9 is an easel leg 12 for supporting the frame in erected position at the desired place of display. Back member or panel 9 may also be provided with an attached suspension link or loop 13, whereby the frame may be suspended against a wall, should such method of display thereof be desired.

In the use of the frame, the front glass 6 is first inserted through the bottom opening 5 to lie within the frame behind the front face flange

2 thereof, and then the picture 7, and the cushioning member 8 to be disposed behind the same, are inserted into the frame, whereupon the back member or panel 9 is slid upwardly through bottom opening 5 behind the aforesaid previously inserted parts, to lie between the latter and the back face flange 3 of the frame.

In order to prevent warping, gapping or other distortion or displacement of the inserted back member or panel 9, with attendant risk of possible escape or displacement of the framed picture and associated parts, novel means are provided for interlocking the inserted back member or panel 9 to the main frame. This means comprises the following arangements. Applied to the interior face of said back member or panel 9, adjacent to the lower end portion thereof, is a metallic plate 14 which is suitably secured to the body of said back member or panel 9. A preferred method of so securing said plate 14 is to provide the same, at its opposite sides with clenching prongs 15 which are pierced through the back member or panel 9 and then clenched over the rear face thereof, prior to applying the covering material 10 thereto. Integral with and projecting from the lower end of said plate 14 is an upwardly directed lock tongue 16 which is doubled or bent upwardly therefrom, so that the free end portion of said lock tongue is forwardly spaced or offset from the inner face of said back member or panel. Preferably the free end portion of said lock tongue 16 is somewhat reversely curved to form at its inner side a nosing 17. Provided in the bottom or ledge portion 4 of the main frame is a slotted opening 18 inwardly spaced from its rearward free margin, and located correspondingly to the location of said lock tongue 16 relative to the back member or panel 9. When the back member or panel 9 is slid upwardly into the main frame, in the manner previously described, the lock tongue 16 will be caused to enter upwardly through said opening 18, and its nosing 17 will spring over the adjacent margin of the latter, as shown most clearly in Figs. 3 and 6 of the drawing. Such engagement of these parts firmly interlocks the lower end of said back member or panel to the lower end of the frame, and so anchors the former to the latter that not only is all tendency of the lower end of the back member to bulge outwardly or gap away from the frame arrested, but the back member is also held against accidental outward sliding displacement when the frame is lifted or moved about. Back member or panel 9 being thus held against warping, bulging, gapping, or like distortion or displacement assures against any relaxing of the backing of the picture contained in the frame, and consequently shifting, escape or other undesired movement of the picture relative to the frame is efficiently prevented.

From the above it will be obvious that a very sturdy and satisfactory frame for pictures and like matter desired to be displayed is provided by the instant invention. It will also be understood that various changes could be made in the disclosed construction and many apparently widely different embodiments of this invention could be made without departing from the scope thereof, as defined in the herefollowing claims. It is therefore intended that all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawing shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

I claim:

1. In a frame for pictures or the like, in combination, a main frame, a removable back therefor, said frame having a slotted bottom flange, said back having a lower end portion extending below said frame bottom flange, and an upwardly directed lock tongue secured to said back adjacent to the bottom edge of its lower end portion and adapted to enter through the slot of said frame bottom flange so as to interlock said frame and back together, the free end portion of said lock tongue being of reversely curved formation whereby a yieldable snap lock cooperative with a margin of said slot is provided.

2. In a frame for pictures or the like, in combination, a main frame of channeled cross sectional shape having the rear portion of its lower end cut away to provide a forward supporting ledge and an entrance opening rearward thereof, said supporting ledge having a perforation therein, a removable back slidable through said entrance opening into said frame, said back having a lower end portion extending below said supporting ledge, and an upwardly directed lock tongue secured to said back adjacent to the bottom edge of its lower end portion and adapted to enter through said perforation, the free end portion of said locking tongue having yieldable means to interlock said frame and back together.

3. In a frame for pictures or the like, in combination, a main frame of channeled cross sectional shape having the rear portion of its lower end cut away to provide a forward supporting ledge and an entrance opening rearward thereof, a removable back slidable through said entrance opening into said frame, said back comprising a panel and a covering extending over the outer face and around the marginal portions thereof, said back being of a length in excess of the length of said frame whereby when assembled with the latter an exteriorly projected footing for said frame is provided by its lower end, said supporting ledge of the frame having an opening therethrough adjacent to its free margin, and an upwardly directed lock tongue springing from said back adjacent to its lower end and adapted to enter through said ledge opening so as to interlock said frame and back together.

4. In a frame for pictures or the like, in combination, a main frame of channeled cross sectional shape having the rear portion of its lower end cut away to provide a forward supporting ledge and an entrance opening rearward thereof, said supporting ledge having an opening therethrough, a removable back slidable through said entrance opening into said frame, said back comprising a panel and a covering of non-abrasive material extending over the outer face and around the marginal portions thereof, said back being of a length in excess of the length of said frame whereby when assembled with the latter an exteriorly projecting footing for said frame is provided by its lower end, a plate secured to the inner face of said back adjacent to said lower end thereof, and an upwardly directed lock tongue springing from said plate and adapted to enter through said ledge opening so as to interlock said frame and back together when assembled.

HENRY E. SCHARLING.