March 31, 1936. C. CAHN 2,035,532

SAMPLE DISPLAY DEVICE

Filed April 10, 1935

Fig. 1.

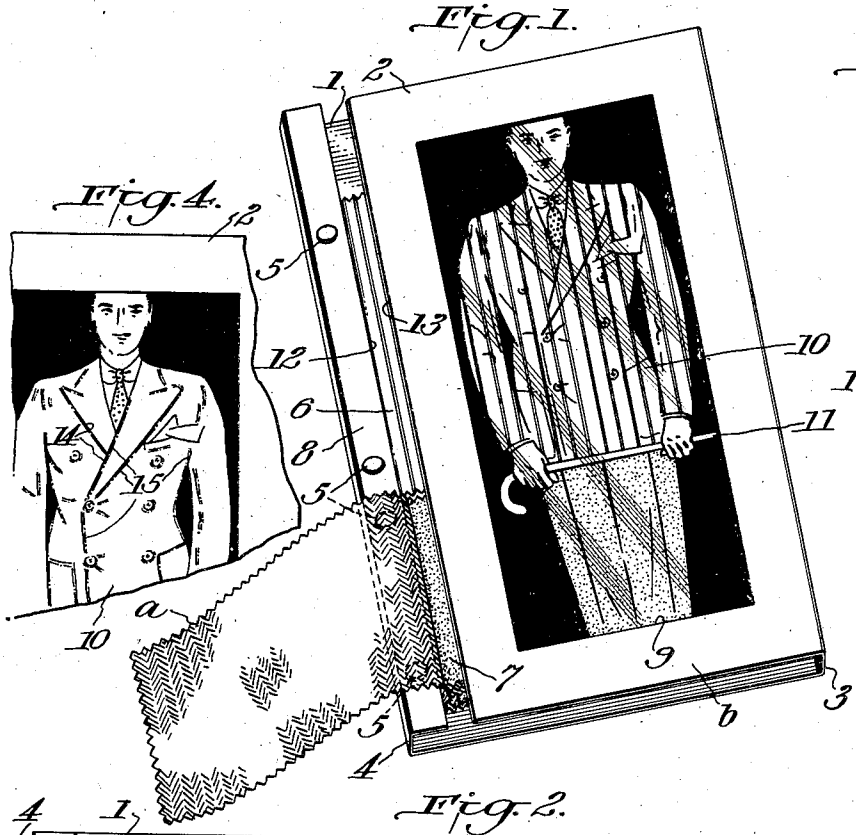


Fig. 3.

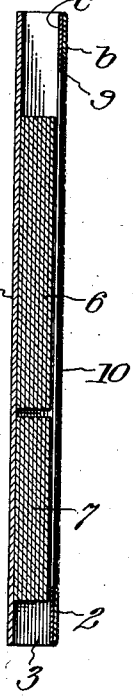
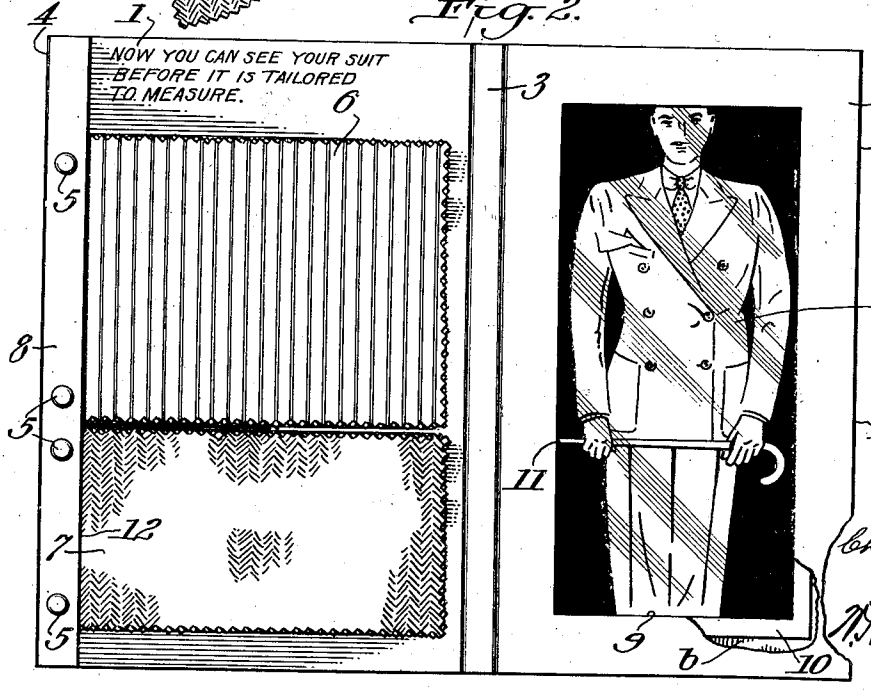


Fig. 4.

Fig. 2.



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SAMPLE DISPLAY DEVICE

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5 Claims. (Cl. 35—56)

This invention relates to sample display devices, and particularly to devices for displaying samples of cloth in such a manner that a prospective purchaser may be able to visualize the appearance of the cloth of the samples when fabricated into garments.

One object of the invention is to so display simultaneously any of a plurality of samples arranged in separate piles that the adaptability of the samples for producing appropriate and effective costume ensembles may be seen.

Another object of the invention is to provide a means for so viewing the samples displayed that they may appear as if actually made into garments, this being accomplished by superposition of a transparent member bearing a representation of a clothed figure through which the samples may be seen in their proper relation to the garments in which the figure of the representation is clothed.

A further object of the invention is to form the viewing means in such a manenr that a relatively large number of samples may compose the piles of same and that any of the samples may be viewed together without interference of those samples which are not at that time being used, whereby many combinations of the samples are made possible.

The invention comprises a folder having a back member and a front member hingedly connected at one edge, the back member being formed to provide for the attachment to it of edge-adjacent piles of samples, and the samples composing the piles capable of being turned as pages or leaves of a book to obtain any desired combinations. The front member is provided with an opening throughout which extends a transparent member bearing the representation of a figure in outline, and in opaque portions, through which representation the samples may be viewed when the front member is superposed upon them, certain of the opaque portions of the representation masking portions of the underlying samples, and one opaque portion, in particular, overlying and spanning the adjacent edges of the piles of samples, the front member being preferably narrower than the back member, thus providing a space to accommodate the samples which are turned back from the piles, all as will be explained hereinafter more fully and finally claimed.

In the accompanying drawing illustrating the invention, in the several figures of which like parts are similarly designated, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device of the invention with the parts in folded position suitable for viewing the samples. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the device unfolded or opened out flat, parts being broken away. Fig. 3 is a section taken substantially centrally of the folded device upon its longitudinal axis. Fig. 4 shows a modification of the device.

The folder, which forms the foundation element of the device comprises a back member 1 and a front member 2 hinged together at one edge by a relatively flexible hinge 3.

The back member 1 is provided at its edge opposite the hinge 3 with an articulated or foldable flap 4 between which and the back member proper are secured, by suitable fasteners 5, piles of cloth samples or swatches 6 and 7, each of such piles containing any number of samples as desired, as limited by the space between the overlying portion 8 of the flap and the back member 1.

These samples or swatches may be turned in a manner similar to the leaves or pages of a book, as indicated at *a* (Fig. 1), to thus present any desired samples at the tops of the piles.

In the example illustrated in Fig. 3 eight samples or swatches are shown in each of the piles 6 and 7, but it will be understood that, as just stated, the number is not thus limited. Even with only eight samples in each pile it will be apparent that sixty-four different combinations may be made, and the combinations possible are thus equal to the square of the number of samples in a pile, so long as both piles contain the same number. Variations of the number of combinations will be obvious.

The front member 2 is preferably formed of two similar parts *b* and *c*, (Fig. 3) each provided with an uninterrupted opening 9 of a size to overlie portions of the piles of samples. The part *b* is preferably formed integral with the hinge 3 and back member 1 to provide a smooth exterior surface, and the part *c* is secured to the inner face of the part *b*.

Between the two parts of the front member 2, and extending throughout the openings 9 thereof, is secured a sheet of transparent material 10, preferably cellophane, upon the back of which is printed or otherwise suitably delineated or applied a representation of a figure, partly in outline and parly opaque and wholly carried by the transparent member. In the drawing the representation is the figure of a man wearing coat and trousers, the design of the coat, the buttons and other parts being applied in outline, and the creases and folds of the trousers applied in a similar manner.

When this representation is positioned over the cloth sample piles by superposing the front member 2 thereover, the top sample of the upper pile 6 is seen through the representation of the coat, and the top sample of the lower pile 7 is seen through the representation of the trousers.

The head, hands, shirt, handkerchief, collar and tie of the figure are opaque, as is also the background or field of the representation, and in order that the space between the adjacent edges of the two piles of samples may be obscured or masked an opaque portion is extended across the representation in such position as to overlie this space when the front member is superposed upon the piles. In the drawing, this opaque portion is the showing of a cane or walking-stick 11, but representations of other articles or devices may be substituted therefor, as desired or required. These opaque portions of the figure representation being wholly carried by the transparent member obviate the need for provision of cut-outs of particular design as has been the practice heretofore, thus materially simplifying the construction and reducing the cost of the device.

It will thus be seen that when the samples are viewed with the parts of the device arranged as illustrated in Fig. 1, the coat will appear as made of one cloth and the trousers as made of another, and the space between the two piles of samples is so effectively masked or concealed as not to be noticeable, thus giving a very life-like representation of the figure clothed in cloth patterns of desired blending or contrasting designs.

As shown, the front member 2 is of less width than the back member 1, and this provides a space between the edge 12 of the flap 4 and the adjacent edge 13 of the front member 2 to accommodate the samples which have been turned back as at *a*, thus permitting the front member to be pressed into close contact with the top or exposed samples of the piles. This close contact is furthered by the flexibility of the hinge 3 which may, in effect, collapse as pressure is applied to the front member.

Although, in the embodiment of the invention shown, only two piles of samples or swatches are employed, it will be obvious that one or more of such piles may be used, and the representation appearing upon the transparent member may contain such parts as will be appropriate to the samples to be displayed, it being understood, however, that suitable opaque parts of the representation will be employed to mask or overlie the adjacent edges of the piles.

In displaying samples of cloth of light colors or shades, the use of black or other dark colored outlines will be effective to present the representation of the figure upon the transparent member, but when samples of dark colors or shades are to be displayed, the black or dark colored outlines, are apt to so blend therewith as to be obscured, and hence, in order to make the device more effective for viewing samples of both light and dark colors or shades, the black or dark pigmented outlines may be, and preferably are, supplemented by white or light pigmented outlines paralleling the dark pigmented outlines, as illustrated by the full lines 14 and dot-and-dash lines 15, respectively, of the representation of Fig. 4. Thus, when the transparent member is positioned over light colored samples the dark pigmented outlines will be seen, and when it is positioned over dark-colored samples the light pigmented outlines will be seen. It will be apparent, furthermore, that this double outline will be effective in displaying a light colored sample in one pile of samples and a dark colored sample in the other pile.

The inner surface of the back member may bear advertising matter, instructions for use of the device, illustrations of styles of clothing, and such other printed matter as is customarily employed in the sale of clothing and other samples, as indicated in Fig. 2. Also, sufficient space is provided upon the outer surfaces of the back and front members to accommodate advertising matter, trade-marks, trade names and the like.

Various modifications in the construction, arrangement of parts and adaptation of the device are considered to be within the spirit of the invention and the scope of the following claims.

What I claim is:—

1. In a sample display device, a folder comprising a back member and a front member connected at one edge by a hinge, a flap on said back member at another edge thereof and by which a plurality of samples may be secured to said back member in stacked relation, said samples capable of independent manipulation as the pages of a book and adapted to be turned back over said securing flap so that any of the samples may appear uppermost for display, said front member provided with an opening large enough to expose the uppermost sample, a transparent sheet secured to said front member and extending throughout said opening, and a representation of a figure delineated upon said transparent sheet, said transparent sheet permitting a view of the uppermost sample in combination with said figure representation when the front member is superposed with respect thereto, said front member when thus superposed having its edge adjacent to the edge of said securing flap, but spaced therefrom, the space thus provided being sufficient to accommodate the thickness of the samples when the same are turned back over said flap.

2. In a sample display device, a folder comprising a back member and a front member connected at one edge by a hinge, a flap on said back member at its edge opposite said hinge and by which a plurality of samples may be secured to said back member in stacked relation, said samples capable of independent manipulation as the pages of a book and adapted to be turned back over said securing flap so that any of the samples may appear uppermost for display, said front member provided with an opening large enough to expose the uppermost sample, a transparent sheet secured to said front member and extending throughout said opening, and the representation of a figure delineated upon said transparent sheet, said transparent sheet permitting a view of the uppermost sample in combination said figure representation when the front member is superposed with respect thereto, said front member being of less width than said back member and when thus superposed providing a space between its free edge and the edge of said securing flap, said space being sufficient to accommodate the thickness of the samples when the same are turned back over said flap, said hinge being flexible to permit said front member when so superposed to be depressed into intimate relation to the uppermost sample being viewed.

3. In a sample display device, a folder comprising a back member and a front member connected at one edge by a hinge, a flap on said back member at another edge thereof and by which a plurality of samples may be secured to

said back member in two separate piles in edge-adjacent relation, said samples capable of independent manipulation as the pages of a book and adapted to be turned back away from their piles over said securing flap so that any of the samples of the two piles may appear uppermost upon said piles for simultaneous display, said front member provided with an opening large enough to expose the samples of the two piles simultaneously, a transparent sheet secured to said front member and extending throughout said opening, and the representation of a figure delineated upon said transparent sheet and comprising transparent and opaque portions, portions of said representation permitting a view of the samples uppermost upon the two piles thereof when the front member is superposed with respect to said piles, said front member being smaller in one direction than said back member and when thus superposed providing a space between its edge and the adjacent edge of said securing flap, said space being sufficient to accommodate the thickness of the samples when the same are turned back over said flap.

4. In a sample display device, a transparent member adapted to be positioned over the sample to be displayed, said transparent member bearing in outline the representation of a figure in combination with which the sample may be viewed, said outline including dark pigmented and light pigmented lines providing for effective contrast of the representation with samples of light and dark colors or shades respectively.

5. In a sample display device, a transparent member adapted to be positioned over the sample to be displayed, said transparent member bearing in outline the representation of a figure in combination with which the sample may be viewed, said outline including dark pigmented and light pigmented lines arranged in substantial parallelism and providing for effective contrast of the representation with samples of light and dark colors or shades respectively.

CHARLES CAHN.