March 7, 1939. J. TEPPER 2,149,985

COMBINED CANVAS-STRETCHER AND PICTURE FRAME

Filed May 10, 1935 5 Sheets-Sheet 1

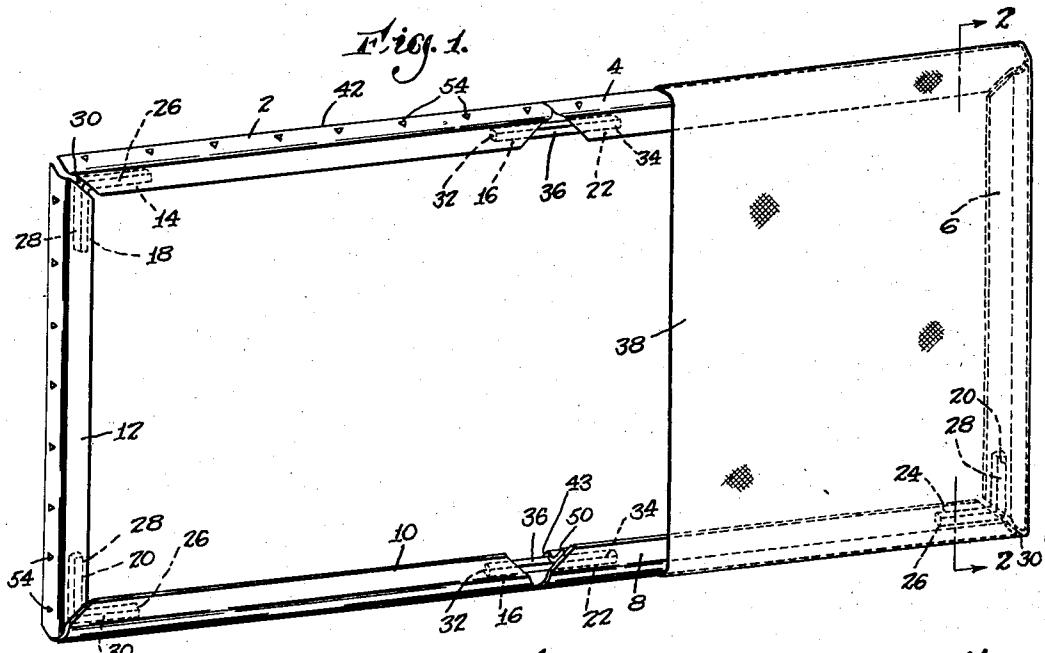


Fig. 1.

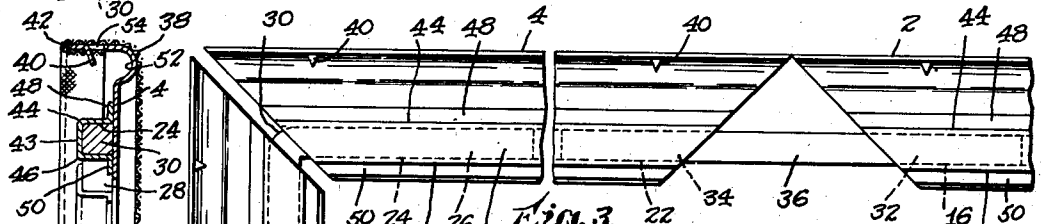


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

Fig. 12.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 13.

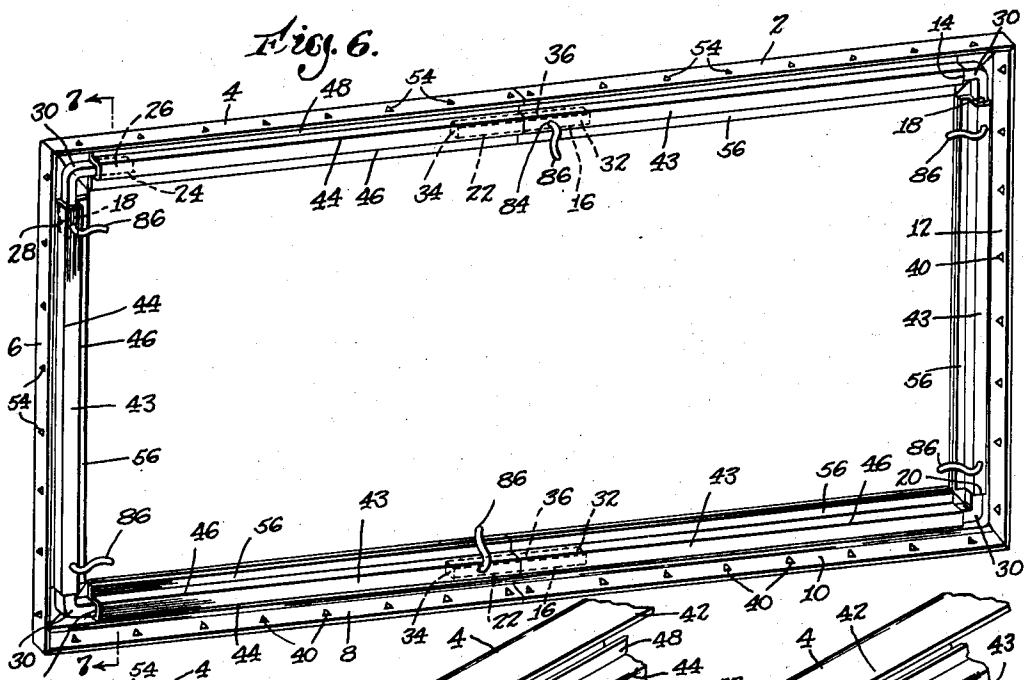
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COMBINED CANVAS-STRETCHER AND PICTURE FRAME

Filed May 10, 1935 5 Sheets-Sheet 2

Fig. 6.



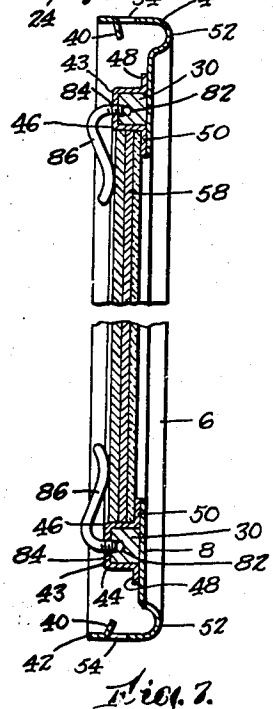


Fig. 7.

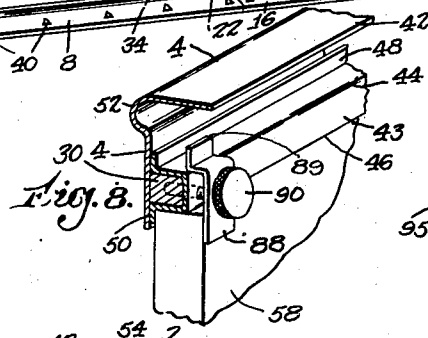


Fig. 8.

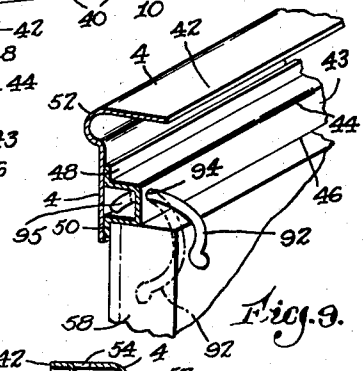


Fig. 9.

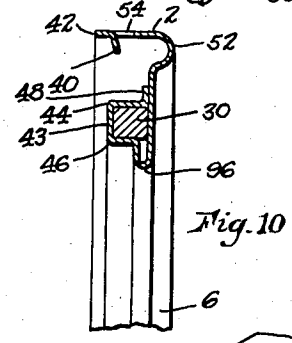


Fig. 10

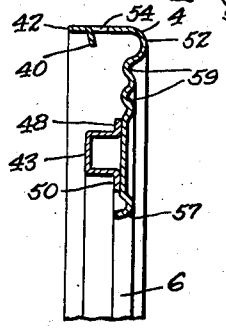


Fig. 11.

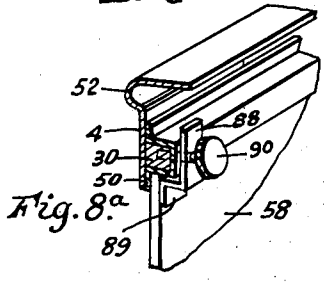


Fig. 8a.

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COMBINED CANVAS-STRETCHER AND PICTURE FRAME

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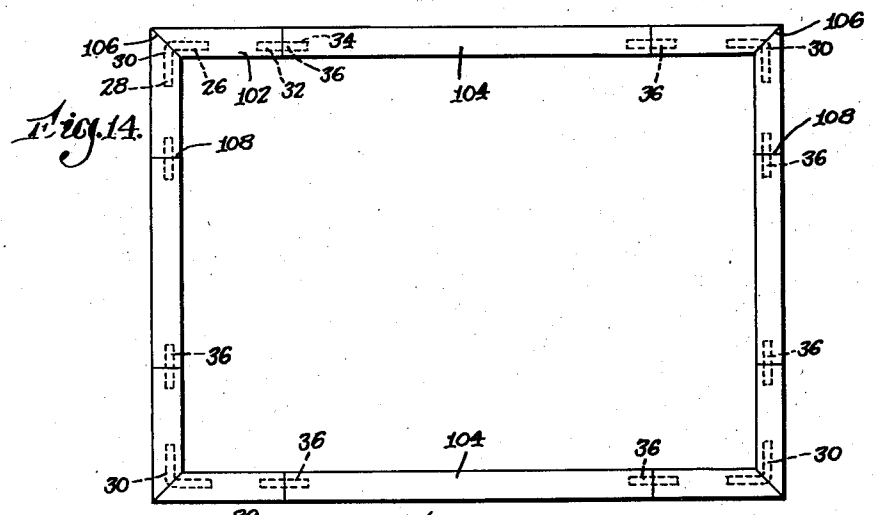


Fig. 14.

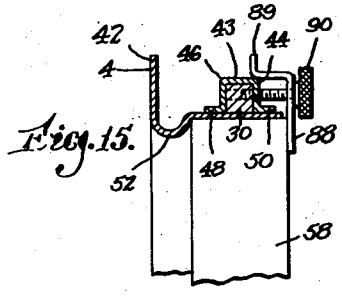


Fig. 15.

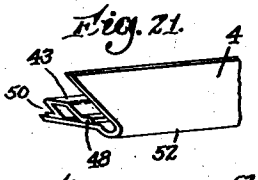


Fig. 21.

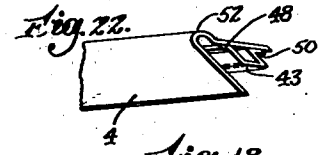


Fig. 22.

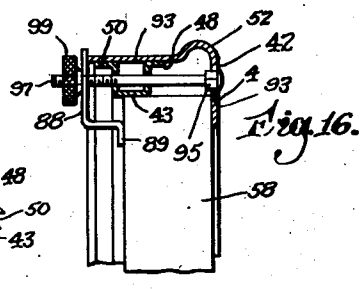


Fig. 16.

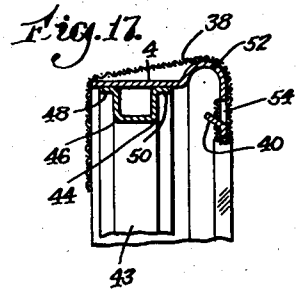


Fig. 17.

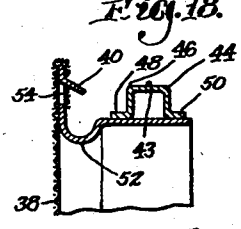


Fig. 18.

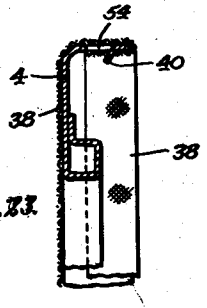


Fig. 19.

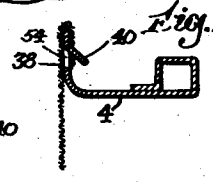


Fig. 23.

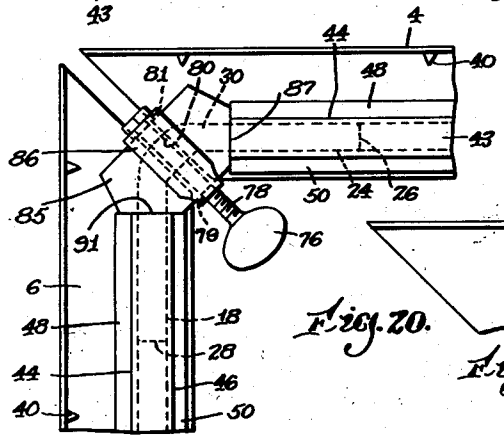


Fig. 20.

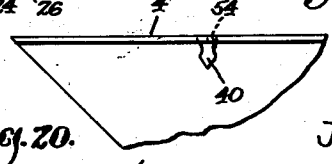


Fig. 25.

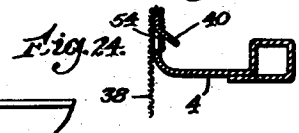


Fig. 24.

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COMBINED CANVAS-STRETCHER AND PICTURE FRAME

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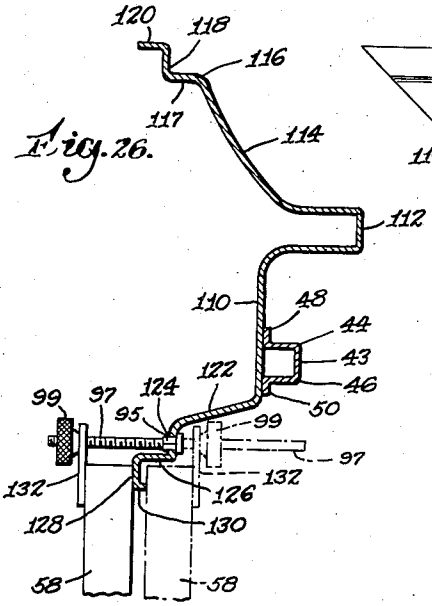


Fig. 26.

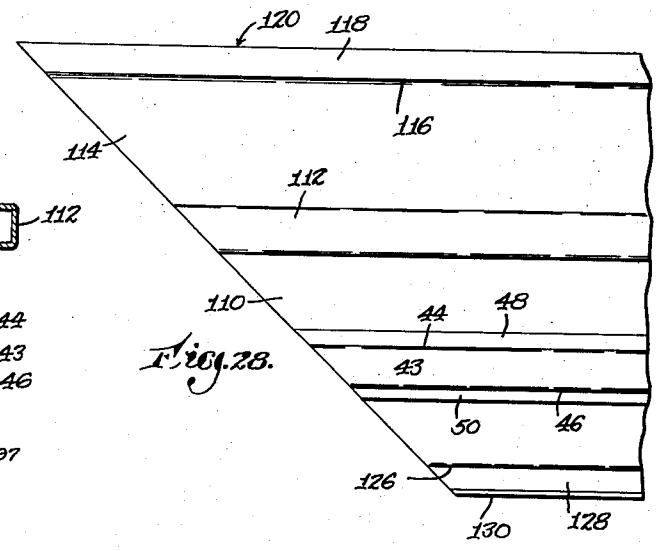


Fig. 28.

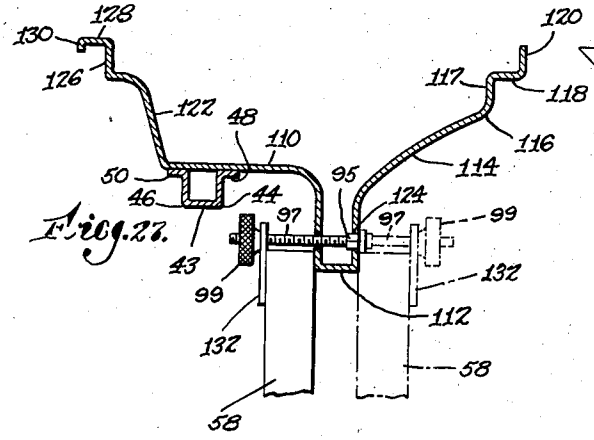


Fig. 27.

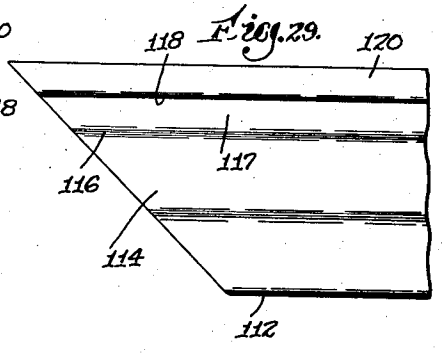


Fig. 29.

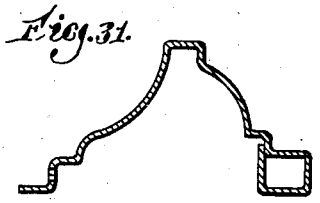


Fig. 31.

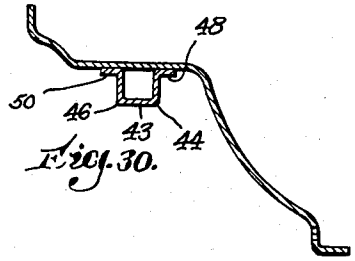


Fig. 30.

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COMBINED CANVAS-STRETCHER AND PICTURE FRAME

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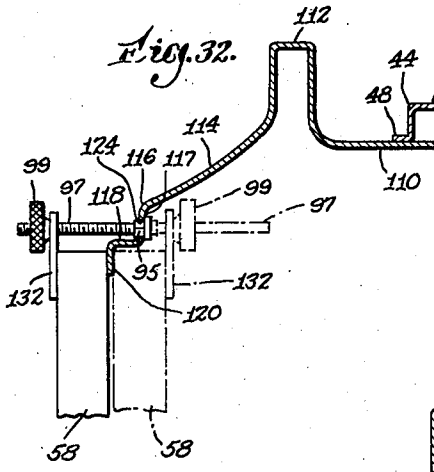


Fig. 32.

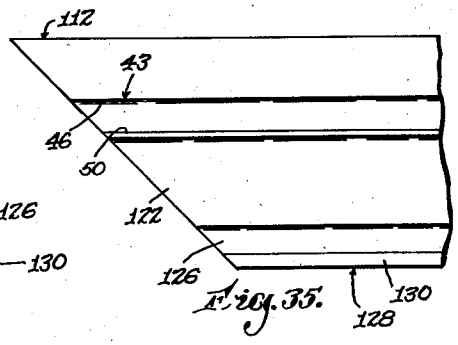


Fig. 35.

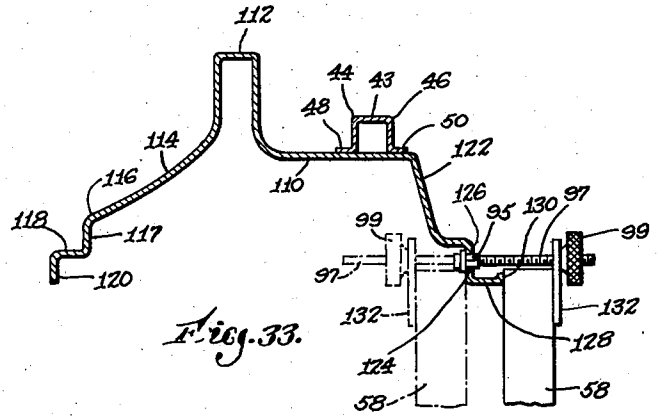


Fig. 33.

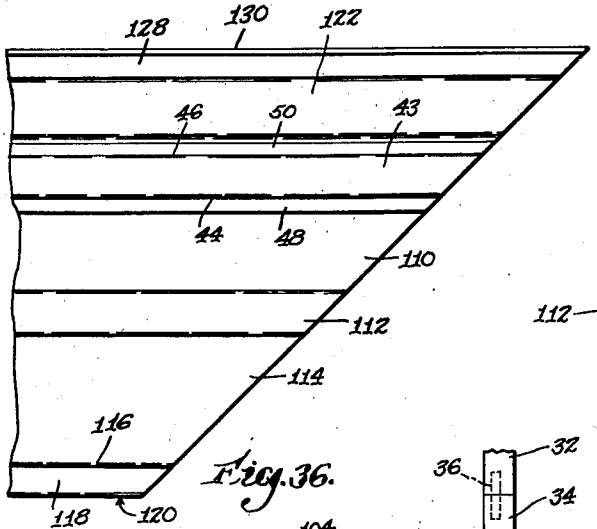


Fig. 36.

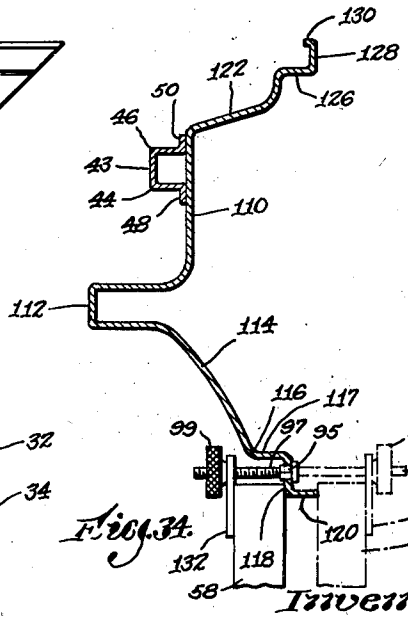


Fig. 34.

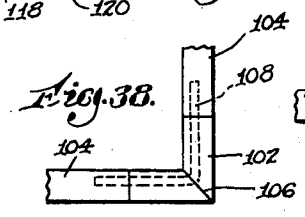


Fig. 38.

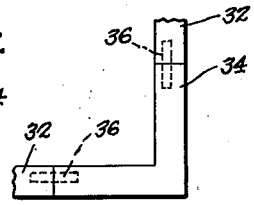


Fig. 37.

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Patented Mar. 7, 1939

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,149,985

COMBINED CANVAS-STRETCHER AND PICTURE FRAME

Joseph Tepper, Boston, Mass.

Application May 10, 1935, Serial No. 20,712

21 Claims. (Cl. 40—155)

The present invention, though having also other fields of utility, relates more particularly to artists' supplies, such as frames, including canvas-stretching frames, picture frames and the like, and its object is to provide a new and improved article of this nature that may be used as a stretching frame for painting canvases, silk, drawing paper, water-color paper, or other sheet material, or for similar analogous purposes.

A further object is to provide separate units that may be readily combined into any convenient size of canvas stretcher, or picture frame. Another object is to provide a frame of the above-described character that shall be easily adjustable. Other and further objects will be explained hereinafter and will be particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

The invention will be more fully explained in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which Fig. 1 is a front perspective of a canvas-stretcher embodying the present invention; Fig. 2 is a section taken upon the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, looking in the direction of the arrows, upon a larger scale than in Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a fragmentary elevation of the same, upon a still larger scale; Fig. 4 is a similarly enlarged, fragmentary rear perspective of a modification; Fig. 5 is a similarly enlarged, fragmentary rear elevation of a further modification; Fig. 6 is a rear perspective, corresponding to Fig. 1, of still another modification; Fig. 7 is a section similar to Fig. 2, taken upon the line 7—7 of Fig. 6, looking in the direction of the arrows; Figs. 8, 8a and 9 are fragmentary perspectives, similar to Fig. 4, of further modifications, particularly adapted to picture-frame use; Figs. 10 and 11 are fragmentary sections similar to Figs. 2 and 7 of other modifications; Fig. 12 shows a perspective of a detail; Fig. 13 is a section taken upon the line 13—13 of Fig. 5, looking in the direction of the arrows; Fig. 14 is an elevation of a modified frame; Figs. 15 and 16 are fragmentary sections similar to Figs. 10 and 11 of the picture-frame strip illustrated in Fig. 8, but differently arranged; Figs. 17 and 18 are similar fragmentary sections bearing the same relation to Fig. 2 that Figs. 15 and 16 bear to Fig. 8; Fig. 19 shows a modification of the stretching frame shown in Fig. 18; Fig. 20 shows a modification of the form of the invention shown in Fig. 5; Figs. 21 and 22 are fragmentary elevations corresponding to Figs. 15 and 16, respectively; Figs. 23 and 24 show modifications of the arrangement shown in Fig. 18; Fig. 25 is a fragmentary elevation showing an improved impaling pin; Figs. 26 and 27 are sections of a modified strip showing two different uses; Figs. 28 and 29 are corresponding fragmentary elevations of the modifications shown in Figs. 26 and 27; Figs. 30 and 31 show variations of the modifications shown in Figs. 26 to 29; Figs. 32, 33 and 34 are views of the strip shown in Figs. 26 to 29, but arranged for still different uses; Figs. 35 and 36 are fragmentary elevations corresponding to Figs. 32 and 34, respectively; and Figs. 37 and 38 are fragmentary elevations of variations of the modifications illustrated in Fig. 14.

The frame shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3 comprises a plurality of strips 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 disposed end to end in the form of a rectangle. Each strip is provided with a longitudinally disposed groove at each end; the strip 2, for example, is provided with grooves 14 and 16, the strips 6 and 12 with grooves 18 and 20, and the strips 4 and 8 with grooves 22 and 24. The grooves of adjacently disposed ends of adjacently disposed strips are adapted to receive joining members for joining the adjacently disposed strips together. The grooves 14 and 18, for example, receive the arms 26 and 28 of a joining member 30, and the grooves 16 and 22 the arms 32 and 34 of a joining member 36. As the adjacent strips 2 and 12 are disposed at right angles to each other, the arms 26 and 28 are also at right angles to each other, the joining member 30 being in the form of an angle member. As the adjacent strips 2 and 4, on the other hand, are alined in a common, straight line, the arms 32 and 34 of the joining member 36 are also alined or straight.

The strips are preferably of sheet metal, the grooves being formed between the rear face of the sheet metal and a second sheet 43 of metal, longitudinally bent at 44 and 46, and longitudinally disposed in contact with the said rear face along marginal portions 48 and 50. The arms and the grooves are of cross section and other dimensions such as to cause the arms to fit tightly in the grooves.

The marginal portions 48 and 50 of the member 43 shown in Figs. 2 to 9 and 11, are secured to the strip in any desired manner, as by spot-welding. As illustrated in Fig. 10, however, one of the marginal portions may form a continuation of the strip itself, bent back upon itself at 96. One of the marginal portions may be omitted, as illustrated in Figs. 23 and 24.

Preferably, as shown, the grooves are square in cross section and the arms of the joining members 30 and 36, preferably also of metal, are of

square cross section to conform substantially to the cross section of the grooves in which they are positioned. Being made of sheet metal, the outer sides **42** of the strips may be longitudinally curved, as shown at **52**, to stiffen them. The free edges of the sides **42** are caused to extend beyond the plane of the frame, or overhang; and holding or impaling pins **40** are struck out from the sheet metal of the strips, out of harm's way, inside the overhanging portions **42**, as shown at **54**. The holding pins **40** may be triangular, as shown, but a better holding effect is produced by shaping it with a shoulder, on each side, as illustrated in Fig. 25. The canvas will then not slip off once it is impaled. The curved portions **52** provide also further room in which to position the pins **40**. The canvas **38** is mounted on the stretching frame constituted of the strips by impaling it on the holding pins **40**; and in order the better to hold the canvas **38** on the pins **40**, the latter are slightly slanted inward, away from the outer edge **42**, as shown, for example, in Fig. 2. Such slight slanting serves further to protect one's person against injury by the pins **40**, as their sharp points are thus caused to extend further into the narrow space between the edge **44** and the edge **42**, so that one can not accidentally injure one's fingers against the sharp points of the pins **40**.

The canvas **38** may be impaled on the pins by pressing it against the pins, exerting pressure with the fingers on each side of each pin **40**. The curved portions **52** serve a further function in that they keep the canvas spaced from the frame, as is illustrated more particularly in Fig. 2, though the curved portion **52** might be omitted, illustrated in Fig. 19, as hereinafter explained.

The inner marginal portions **50** of the sheet-metal strips may constitute a marginal supporting portion for a picture, cardboard, or the like **58**, held in the frame, when it is desired to utilize the device as a picture frame. The picture **58** may be mounted on the stretching frame disclosed herein or upon some other stretching frame. The marginal portion may be ornamented by longitudinally curving, as shown at **57**, Fig. 11; curved ornamentation may also be produced at **59**, Fig. 11; and still other ornamentation is illustrated in Figs. 26 to 32.

After the canvas has been impaled upon the pins **40**, it is necessary to stretch it. This may be effected in many ways within the scope of the present invention. In Fig. 4, there is disclosed a double cam member, pivoted on the angle joining-member **30** at **60** and having a cam **62** for engaging the end of one of the metal strips **43** that is mounted on the strip **6** and another cam **64** for engaging the end of one of the metal strips **43** that is mounted on the strip **4**. To stretch the canvas, all that is necessary is to pivot the double cam member about the pivot **60** by means of a handle **66**. Or the inner portions of the strips **4** and **6** may be engaged by the cam faces **68** and **70** of a differently shaped, double-cam or wedge member **74** that may be forced inward by turning a finger-piece **76** upon a screw-threaded member **78** threaded into a correspondingly threaded opening **80** in the neck of the angle member **30**, as illustrated in Figs. 5 and 13. The member **74** may be U-shaped, as illustrated in Figs. 12 and 13, and the member **78** may pass through openings **79** and **81** in the legs of the U. To allow a certain amount of side play, for uniform tension in the canvas, the openings **79** and **81** may be elongated, as illustrated. As shown in Fig. 20, however, the member **74** may be replaced by a differently-shaped, U-member **86** in which a slidable, double-cam member **85** is mounted between the member **86** and the angle member **30**. The member **85** has cam faces **87** and **91** corresponding to the cam faces **68** and **70** of the member **74**, and will automatically adjust itself by sliding, as the finger piece **76** is manipulated, so as to produce therefrom desired tension in the canvas.

To limit the degree of adjustment of the member **74**, a depression **100** may be bent in the metal wall of the member **74**, as illustrated more particularly in Figs. 5, 12 and 13. This permits the strips to come closer together.

As still another modification, for picture-frame purposes, the joining members **30** and **36** may be provided with openings **82** and the sheet-metal strips **43** with corresponding openings **84** for receiving, when alined, locking metal rods **86**, as illustrated in Figs. 6 and 7. These rods **86** may be provided with bent spring arms, in order to serve the additional purpose of engaging against the back of the picture **58**, to hold it in place against the marginal portion **50**.

It will be noted that the picture frame of Fig. 7 corresponds in all other respects to the stretching frame of Fig. 2; but the pins **40** may, of course, be omitted, as in Figs. 8 and 9. Instead of the member **86**, a metal strip **88** may be employed, held in place by a screw **90**, threaded in a threaded opening of the member **30** or **36**, as shown by full lines in Figs. 8, 15 and 16. By reversing the strip **88**, to the dotted-line position of Fig. 8, a thinner member **58** may be supported by the projection **89**, as shown by dot-and-dash lines in Fig. 8. As shown in Fig. 9, the picture-holding member may comprise a metal locking member **92**, one end **95** of which is held loosely in an opening **94** of the strip **43**, but adapted to be tightened by being hooked behind the picture **58**, from the dot-and-dash to the full-line position. The member **92** may be adjusted, so that a thinner member **58** may be held by the member **92**, as illustrated in dot-and-dash lines.

The strips **2**, **4**, **6**, etc. may be combined in many different ways, in accordance with the present invention, three of which are illustrated, for picture-frame purposes, in Figs. 8, 15 and 16. The overhanging portion **42** is shown horizontal in Fig. 8 and vertical in Figs. 15, 16, 21 and 22; and the position of Figs. 15 and 21 is the reverse of that of Figs. 16 and 22. These many ways provide for different sizes and designs of frames. All that is necessary is to provide the openings **82** and **84** is suitable parts of the members **30**, **36** and **43**; or to modify the construction, if desired, by having an additional, non-circular opening **93** for receiving a non-circular portion **95** of a bolt **97** upon which may be threaded a nut **99**, as illustrated in Figs. 16 and 26 to 34. The members **30** and **36** will be correspondingly modified to receive the member **99**, or the member **99** may be positioned at some distance from the members **30** and **36**. Indeed, as shown in Figs. 26 to 36, the member **99** need not have any particular relation to the members **30** and **36**. In Figs. 15 and 21, the curved portion **52** plays a further function in that the picture **58** is held between it and the body of the member **88** (or the end **89** of the member **86**, depending upon the thickness of the picture **58**). In Figs. 16 and 22, the picture is held between the body of the member **86** (or its end **89**) and the portion **42** of the strip.

As illustrated in Figs. 2, 17 and 18, the same

result may be produced when these strips are used for canvas-stretching-frame purposes. The canvas-stretching frame of Fig. 2 corresponds to the picture frame of Fig. 8; Fig. 18 similarly corresponds to Fig. 15; and Fig. 17 is likewise the stretching-frame counterpart of the picture frame shown in Fig. 16. In Figs. 17 and 18, the curved portion 52 may be omitted, as in Fig. 19, which shows the same strip arranged as in Fig. 2, and it will be understood that the arrangement might be as in Figs. 17 and 18. For stretching purposes, the said openings 82 and 84 and the said members 97 and 99 are not needed.

According to the modification illustrated in Figs. 14 and 38, the strips may all be of two forms, illustrated at 102 and 104. The strips 102 have one side beveled, at 106, and the other side straight across, as illustrated at 108, and are always corner strips of the same size. The intermediately disposed strips 104 may be of different sizes, to produce a different size frame. The arms 26 and 28 may be long enough, as shown in Fig. 38, to extend into the strips 104; or, as shown in Fig. 38, two strips 102 may be welded together at 106, to constitute unitary angle-members, in which event the angle joining members 30 are not needed. A frame of this character is particularly useful for picture-frame purposes.

The different strips may be standardized; being, however, differently ornamented. This will be understood from Figs. 26 to 36. The strip shown in Figs. 26 to 29 and 32 to 36, for example, is the same, but differently arranged; and Figs. 30 and 31 illustrate that this strip may be modified. In all cases, the strip is provided with the rectangular or other grooves for receiving the joining members 39 and 36.

The strip may have a wall 110 that carries the member 43; and, extending from one side of the wall, an ornamental, oblong-shaped portion 112, a wall 114 sloping away therefrom and terminating in a bend 116, two walls 117 and 118 at right angles to each other, and a terminal wall 120. Extending from the other side of the wall 110, there is a sloping wall 122, from which bends away a wall 124; and, at right angles thereto, a wall 126. A wall 128 extends at right angles to the wall 126 and terminates in a projection 130 at right angles to the wall 128.

To illustrate one way in which the strip may be employed, the wall 124 may be provided with the opening 93, discussed above in connection with Fig. 16, for receiving the non-circular part 95 of the bolt 97. The picture frame 58 may be received between the wall 128 and a clamping member 132 engaged by the thumb screw 99. As shown in dot-and-dash lines in Fig. 26, however, the picture frame 58 may be held between the projection 130 and the clamping member 132. A picture frame is thus provided, as will be understood from the cross section of Fig. 26 and the elevation of Fig. 28, that will have different ornamental features, depending upon the shapes and the configuration of the various parts 112 to 130; and the picture frame may be held in two positions, illustrated in full lines and dot-and-dash lines.

But the bolt 97 may be mounted as shown in Fig. 27, bolt-receiving openings being provided in the oblong-shaped members 112. Two positions for holding the frame 58 are again illustrated, in full and dot-and-dash lines; a different ornamentation is provided for the picture frame, as viewed from the right, in Fig. 27.

Two further ways of mounting the picture frame 58, with the same picture-frame strip, are illustrated in Fig. 32; and two more in Fig. 33; and always with a different ornamental effect. In Fig. 32, the picture frame is shown held against the terminal wall 120, on either side thereof; and in Fig. 33, against either the wall 126 or the projection 130. Two further ways of holding the picture frame, against the wall 118 or the end of the wall 120, are illustrated in Fig. 34. In Fig. 32, the opening 33 is disposed in the wall 117; in Fig. 33, in the wall 126; and in Fig. 34, in the wall 118.

As illustrated in Fig. 30, the portions of the strip on both sides of the wall 110 may be considerably modified, and as shown in Fig. 31, the portion of the strip on one side or the other of the wall 110 may be entirely omitted, to produce still further ornamental effects.

Further modifications will occur to persons skilled in the art and all such are considered to fall within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A frame comprising a plurality of sheet-metal strips at least some of which are angularly disposed to one another in the form of a closed figure, the strips being provided with overhanging portions and with a plurality of holding pins struck out from the metal of the strips positioned inside the overhanging portions.

2. A frame comprising a plurality of sheet strips disposed end to end in the form of a closed figure, a plurality of holding pins struck out from the strips for holding sheet material on the frame, and means for engaging the ends of selected strips to stretch the sheet material.

3. A frame comprising a plurality of sheet strips disposed end to end in the form of a closed figure, the outer sides of the strips being provided with overhanging portions, and the strips being provided with a plurality of holding pins positioned inside the overhanging portions.

4. A frame comprising a plurality of sheet strips disposed end to end, some in a straight line and others at an angle to each other, in the form of a closed figure, the strips having hollowed-out portions to stiffen them, but having free side edges, means for adjusting the strips to cause them to occupy any desired preselected position, and means for holding sheet material on the frame.

5. A frame comprising a plurality of sheet strips disposed end to end and at least some of which are angularly disposed at suitable angles to one another to form a closed figure, each strip having oppositely disposed sides, one of the sides of each strip being longitudinally curved to stiffen it and being provided with an overhanging portion, and means for holding sheet material on the frame.

6. A frame comprising a plurality of sheet strips at least some of which are angularly disposed to one another in the form of a closed figure, a plurality of holding pins struck out from the strips for holding sheet material on the frame, and means for moving the strips relatively to stretch the sheet material.

7. A frame comprising a plurality of sheet-metal strips disposed end to end in the form of a closed figure and each provided with a longitudinally disposed groove at each end, and a plurality of joining members each having two arms, the arms of each joining member being positioned in the grooves of adjacently disposed

ends of two adjacently disposed strips, and the frame having a plurality of holding pins struck out from the metal of the strips for holding sheet material on the frame.

8. A frame comprising a plurality of strips disposed end to end in the form of a closed figure and each provided with a longitudinally disposed groove at each end, and a plurality of joining members each having two arms, the arms of each joining member being positioned in the grooves of adjacently disposed ends of two adjacently disposed strips, the outer sides of the strips being provided with overhanging portions, and the strips being provided with a plurality of holding pins positioned inside the overhanging portions for holding sheet material on the frame.

9. A frame comprising a plurality of strips disposed end to end, some in a straight line and others at an angle to each other, in the form of a closed figure, each strip being provided with a longitudinally disposed groove at each end, a plurality of straight joining members, and a plurality of angle joining members, each joining member having two arms, the arms of each straight joining member being positioned in the grooves of adjacently disposed ends of two strips adjacently disposed in a straight line, and the arms of each angle joining member being positioned in the grooves of adjacently disposed ends of two strips adjacently disposed at an angle to each other, and means for adjusting the arms in the grooves to cause them to occupy any desired preselected position in the grooves.

10. A frame comprising a plurality of sheet strips disposed end to end in the form of a closed figure and each provided, at each end, with a longitudinally disposed, sheet portion, the sheet portions being longitudinally bent into a form having longitudinal edges, the longitudinal edges being disposed in contact with the corresponding strips to form longitudinally disposed grooves between the strips and the sheet portions, and a plurality of joining members each having two arms, the arms of each joining member being positioned in the grooves of adjacently disposed ends of two adjacently disposed strips, and the arms conforming in cross section substantially to the cross section of the grooves in which they are positioned to cause the arms to fit tightly in the grooves.

11. A frame comprising a plurality of sheet strips disposed end to end in the form of a closed figure and each provided with a longitudinally disposed, longitudinally bent, sheet portion at each end to form a longitudinally disposed groove between the strip and the sheet portion, a plurality of joining members each having two arms, the arms of each joining member being positioned in the grooves of adjacently disposed ends of two adjacently disposed strips, the arms conforming in cross section substantially to the cross section of the grooves in which they are positioned to cause the arms to fit tightly in the grooves, and the outer sides of the strips being longitudinally curved to stiffen them.

12. A frame comprising a plurality of sheet strips disposed end to end in the form of a closed figure and each provided with a longitudinally disposed, longitudinally bent, sheet portion at each end to form a longitudinally disposed groove between the strip and the sheet portion, a plurality of joining members each having two arms, the arms of each joining member being positioned in the grooves of adjacently disposed ends of two adjacently disposed strips, the arms conforming in cross section substantially to the cross section of the grooves in which they are positioned to cause the arms to fit tightly in the grooves, the outer sides of the strips being longitudinally curved to stiffen them, and being provided with overhanging portions, and a plurality of holding pins being struck out from the strips inside the overhanging portions.

13. A frame comprising a plurality of sheet strips disposed end to end in the form of a closed figure and each provided with a longitudinally disposed, longitudinally bent, sheet portion at each end to form a longitudinally disposed groove between the strip and the sheet portion, a plurality of joining members each having two arms, the arms of each joining member being positioned in the grooves of adjacently disposed ends of two adjacently disposed strips, the arms conforming in cross section substantially to the cross section of the grooves in which they are positioned to cause the arms to fit tightly in the grooves, and the inner sides of the sheet strips extending beyond the respective sheet portions to constitute a support for an article held in the frame.

14. A sheet strip provided with a longitudinally disposed, longitudinally bent, sheet portion at each end to form a longitudinally disposed groove between the strip and the sheet portion, a plurality of holding pins being struck out from the strip.

15. A sheet strip provided with a longitudinally disposed, longitudinally bent, sheet portion at each end to form a longitudinally disposed groove between the strip and the sheet portion, one of the sides of the sheet strip extending beyond the sheet portion to constitute a marginal supporting portion.

16. A frame comprising a plurality of strips disposed end to end in the form of a closed figure and each provided with a longitudinally disposed groove at each end, a plurality of joining members each having two arms, the arms of each joining member being positioned in the grooves of adjacently disposed ends of two adjacently disposed strips, means for holding sheet material on the frame, and a cam for stretching the sheet material on the frame.

17. A frame comprising a plurality of strips disposed end to end in the form of a closed figure and each provided with a longitudinally disposed groove at each end, and a plurality of joining members each having two arms, the arms of each joining member being positioned in the grooves of adjacently disposed ends of two adjacently disposed strips, the inner sides of the strips constituting marginal supporting portions, and means for holding an article against the supporting portions.

18. A frame comprising a plurality of strips disposed end to end in the form of a closed figure and each provided with a longitudinally disposed groove at each end, and a plurality of joining members each having two arms, the arms of each joining member being positioned in the grooves of adjacently disposed ends of two adjacently disposed strips, the inner sides of the strips constituting marginal supporting portions, and a member supported by a wall of the groove for holding an article against the supporting portions.

19. A strip for a frame having a wall provided with a groove adapted to receive a member for joining the strip to another strip, the strip hav-

ing an ornamental wall to one side of the first-named wall.

20. A frame comprising a plurality of strips disposed end to end in the form of a closed figure and each provided with a longitudinally disposed groove at each end, a plurality of joining members each having two arms, the arms of each joining member being positioned in the grooves of adjacently disposed ends of two adjacently disposed strips, each strip having an ornamental wall to one side of the grooves, and means for holding an article in the frame.

21. A frame comprising a plurality of strips disposed end to end in the form of a closed figure and each provided with a longitudinally disposed groove at each end, a plurality of joining members each having two arms, the arms of each joining member being positioned in the grooves of adjacently disposed ends of two adjacently disposed strips, each strip having an ornamental wall to one side of the grooves, and means for joining the strips together in various combinations to produce differently ornamented frames.

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