Aug. 13, 1935. W. AYRES 2,010,839

DISPLAY FIXTURE

Filed March 24, 1934

FIG.1.

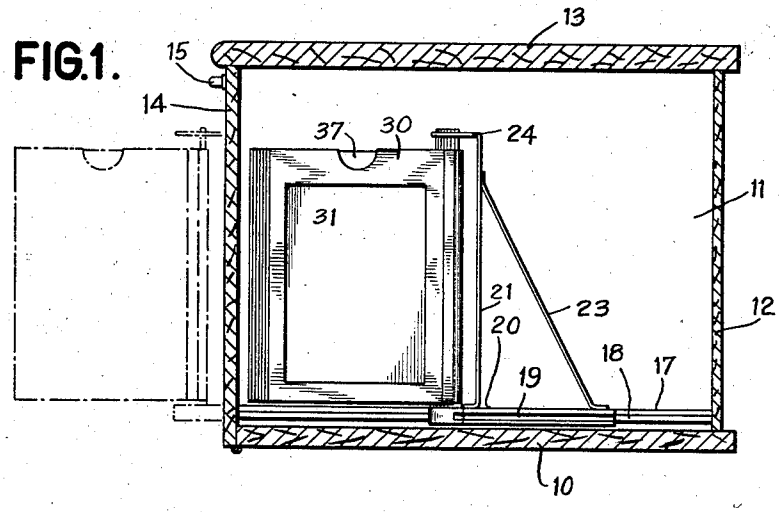
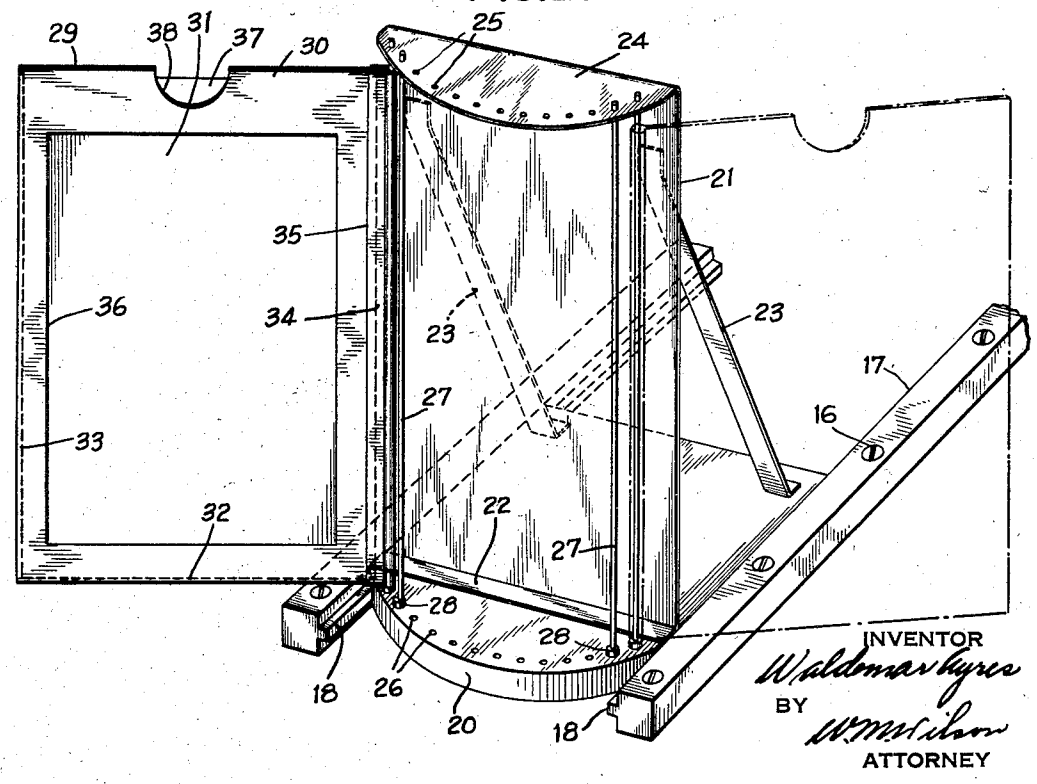


FIG.2.



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DISPLAY FIXTURE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 40—102)

This invention relates to display devices and fixtures in general.

The broad object is to provide an improved display fixture suitable for installation in or as part of desks, tables, cabinets, and the like, or for mounting on a wall or in a wall recess.

An object is to provide a combined display rack and cabinet.

Another object is to provide a display rack having a plurality of display leaves or units which are easily removed and in which the articles to be displayed are easily inserted.

An object is to provide a display pocket or unit which is simple and compact in construction.

Other objects are to provide a display rack which is simple in construction, easy to handle, and can be cheaply manufactured.

Various other objects, advantages, and features of the invention will be mentioned in the following description and claims or will be apparent from a study of specification, claims, and drawing.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a vertical section.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the display rack removed from its cabinet.

The display rack may be housed in a cabinet comprising a base member 10, side panels like 11, a back panel 12, a top 13, and a door 14 hinged at its lower edge to base member 10. A handle or knob 15 is provided by means of which the door may be opened. Any suitable locking device or latch can be used to retain the door 14 in closed position. The cabinet may be made of wood or metal, as desired, but is shown in Fig. 1 as made of wood.

Secured to the top of base member 10, as by screws 16, are two rails 17 having tongues 18 which are received by grooves 19 in a base member 20 which forms part of the display rack. The front or left end of the base member 20 is cylindrical or curved as shown in Fig. 2 while the rear end may be straight.

Mounted upon the base member 20 is a frame member 21 composed of a single piece of sheet metal bent to a flange 22 which is secured to base member 20 by any suitable means, as bolts, rivets or screws. Two braces or brackets 23 may be secured to frame member 21 and base member 20 to hold the former immovable relative to the latter.

The upper end of frame member 21 is bent over to form a substantially horizontal tongue or flange 24 whose front edge is curved to correspond with the curved front end of base member 20, the curved edge of the flange overlying the curved part of base member 20. Adjacent both of these edges is a row of holes 25, 26 so disposed that for each hole 26 in member 20 there is a hole 25 directly above in flange 24. These holes are adapted to loosely receive rods 27 provided with collars 28 at their lower ends. The rods may be removed by pulling them up far enough for the lower ends to clear the holes 26 and pulling them forwardly and downwardly until the upper ends of the rods clear holes 25.

Each rod is adapted to support a pocket or display unit 29 which is preferably made of a stiff, pliant, and stitchable material like leather, artificial leather, fibre, or the like. Each unit 29 comprises front and back elements 30, 31 composed of two sheets of material stitched together along the bottom edge and one side as at 32, 33.

Attached to the other side of each unit 29 by stitches 34 is a folded strip 35 which may be of the same material as elements 30, 31 and forms a tube or passage adapted to receive rod 27, the stitches 34 also serving to secure elements 30, 31 together. One or both elements 30, 31 may be provided with a large rectangular opening 36 which permits a view to be had of a map, photograph, chart, or similar flat article placed in the unit 29 by sliding such article vertically downward between elements 30, 31. If desired, a sheet 37 of celluloid, or similar flexible transparent material may be inserted in front of the article in unit 29 to prevent soiling of such article. When both elements 30, 31 have openings 36, two sheets of transparent material can be provided and articles placed back to back in a unit, thereby increasing the capacity of the unit.

In order to permit ease in inserting or removing articles in the various units, the elements 30, 31 are cut away at 38 to provide a finger opening enabling one to easily grasp articles inserted in the units without spreading the elements 30, 31 and thereby straining them or stretching them out of shape.

This construction makes the rack and its cabinet quite cheap to construct since the material is cheap, little skill is required to assemble the parts, and there are no intricate parts requiring skill or intricate machine operations to make.

As many units 29 as desired may be used, the capacity of each display rack depending only upon the number of holes 25, 26 and the thickness of the units 29. As the units are not made of glass the sheet metal, as is usually the case in such

constructions, a large number of them can be used in a relatively small space without putting excessive strains on the brackets 23 and frame member 21. This is not the case when the units are of glass and sheet metal as then the weight and size of the units are important considerations. It is plain that a rack constructed in accordance with the present invention will be cheaper, more compact, lighter in construction and of greater capacity than prior racks constructed of glass and sheet metal.

If desired the cabinet may form part of a desk, table, filing cabinet bookcase, or other articles of furniture or the rack may be mounted in a wall recess. The frame 21 may also be bolted directly to a wall thus eliminating brackets 23 and base member 20. When this is the case the flange 22 will be made like the tongue 24 and similarly provided with holes 26 to receive rods 27.

When the rack is not in use it may be pushed into its cabinet or recess as in Fig. 1 and the door closed, thus protecting the units against dirt or against unauthorized examination of exhibits in the units.

The fixture will be particularly suitable for museums to be used to display rare maps, charts, postage stamps, etchings, engravings, autographs and exhibits of like nature due to its greater compactness and capacity than the ordinary glass and sheet metal or glass and wood fixtures heretofore used.

A large number of them may be provided at no great expense and articles displayed in the units may be handled freely without danger of soiling or breaking glass. When not in use the fixtures may be locked to protect the contents of units 29 against the ravages of light, pilfering, or unauthorized inspection.

Due to the fact that the units 29 are much lighter in weight than glass and wood or glass and sheet metal units of the same length and breadth, a rack containing a given number of units 29 will be much easier to handle than former racks of equivalent capacity and the base member 20 will slide very easily even when a large number of units 29 are provided in a single fixture. Thus roller or ball bearing slides for mounting the rack in its cabinet will not be required and the simple and inexpensive tongue-and-groove guides of Figs. 1 and 2 may be used instead.

Due to the lightness and thinness of the units 29 and the type of construction described there is no practical limit to the number or size of such units in a given fixture as is the case with former constructions. The material of which the units 29 are made makes it possible to print or emboss titles, numbers, letters, or ornamentation on them at little cost and by simple machine operations.

While there has been shown and described and pointed out the fundamental novel features of the invention as applied to a single modification, it will be understood that various omissions and substitutions and changes in the form and details of the device illustrated and in its operation may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of the invention. It is the intention therefore to be limited only as indicated by the scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A display rack comprising a cabinet provided with a door, a pair of guides mounted on the base of the cabinet in its interior, a member slidably mounted on said guides, a one piece frame carried by said member, and display units pivotally mounted in said frame like the leaves of a book, each unit being adapted to removably hold a flat article such as a map or chart.

2. A display rack comprising a base member, a frame mounted on said member, a series of removable rods arranged in an arc on said frame and said member, and a plurality of display units supported by said rods and composed of stiff, thin pliant sheets secured along three edges to provide an envelope-like pocket adapted to receive a flat article such as a map or chart for display purposes.

3. A display unit for display racks comprising two sheets of thin pliant material stitched together along three edges to form an envelope-like pocket, at least one of said sheets having an opening to permit a view of a map or similar article inserted in the unstitched end of the pocket, and a mounting strip stitched to one edge of the pocket so as to form a tubular passage adapted to receive a rod for mounting the pocket.

4. A display fixture comprising a cabinet having a door and a base, guide means mounted on the base in the interior of the cabinet and behind the door, a base frame slidably mounted on the guide means, an upright frame mounted on the base frame, a series of pivot rods jointly supported by the base frame and upright frame and arranged in an arc, and display units carried by said rods, each display unit consisting of an envelope-like structure of thin pliant material adapted to removably hold their articles such as maps and the like.

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