Nov. 22, 1966 A. H. POERTNER 3,286,387

SELF-FRAMED PICTURES

Filed June 29, 1964 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

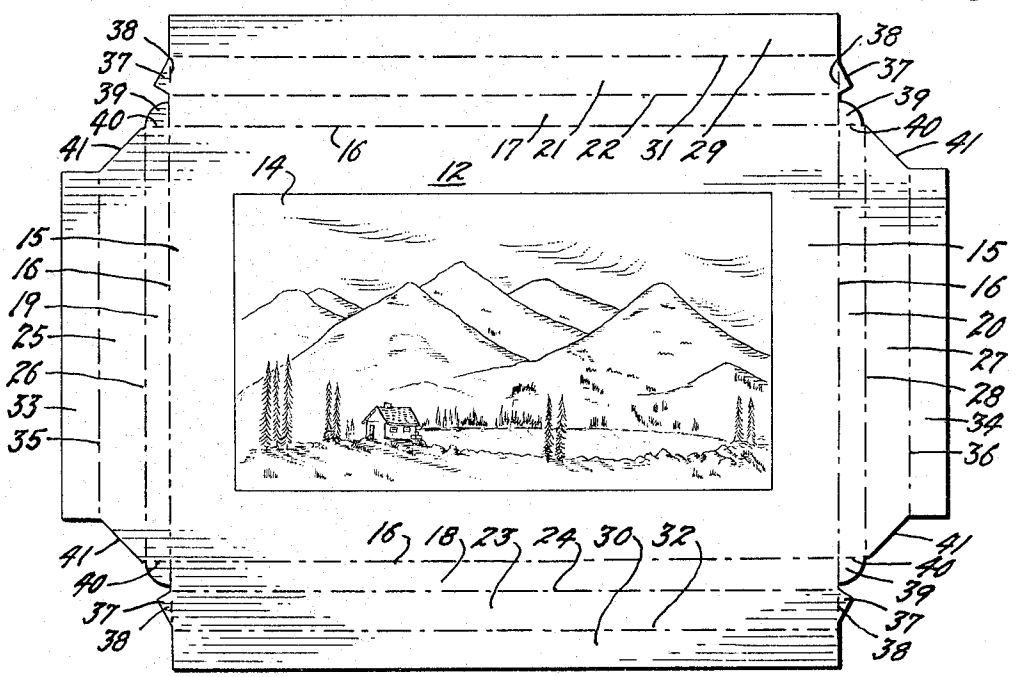


Fig_1

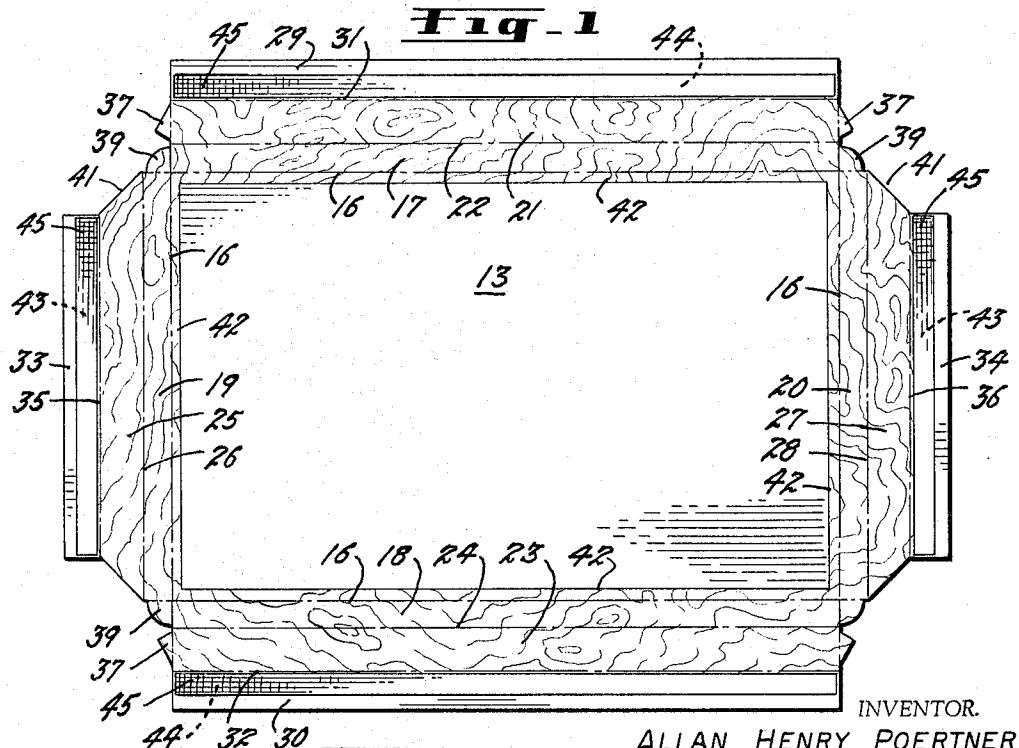


Fig_2

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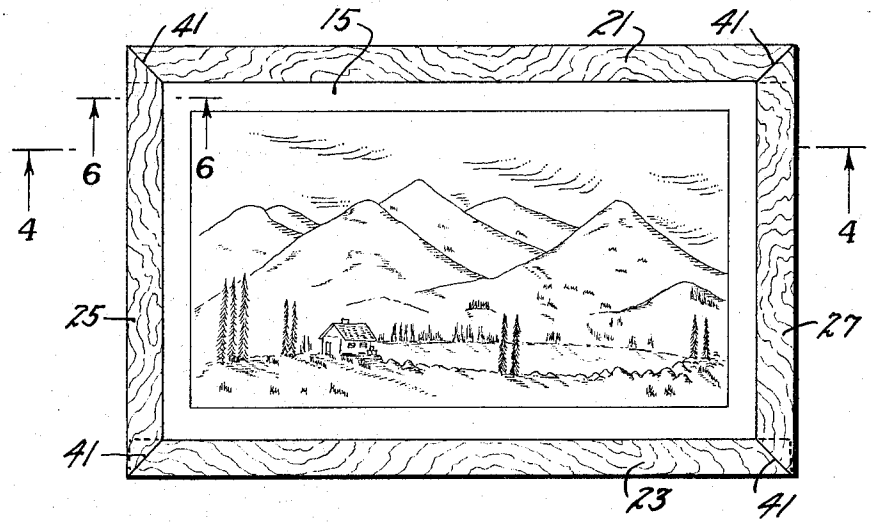


Fig_3

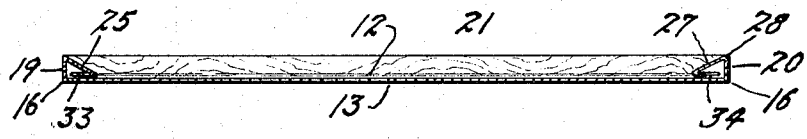


Fig_4

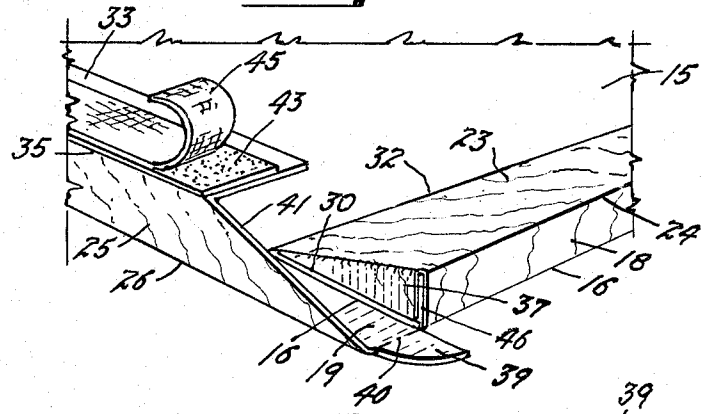


Fig_5

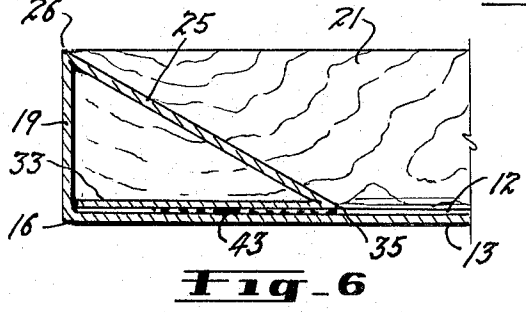


Fig_6

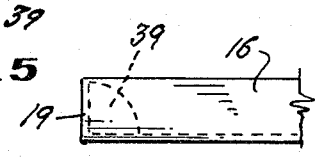


Fig_7

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3,286,387

SELF-FRAMED PICTURES

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Filed June 29, 1964, Ser. No. 378,554
1 Claim. (Cl. 40—154)

The invention relates to a self-framed picture and has for its principal object the provision of a flat, unitary card-board blank so shaped, imprinted or lithographed, and scored so that it can be quickly and permanently formed into a completely framed picture ready for wall hanging.

Another object is to provide a self-framing picture, the frame of which though unitary with the picture will be three dimensional with accurately finished metered corners giving the appearance of a picture conventionally framed in an expensive independent frame.

A further object is to provide means for instantly, uniformly and permanently sealing the frame structure to the picture surface throughout the entire periphery of the surface without gaps or wrinkles and without the use of staples or other spaced fastening devices.

A still further object is to provide a self-framed picture wherein the picture carrying surface may be highly calendered for perfect lithographic reproduction and in which the frame surface can be uncalendered to give the appearance of wood or other material differing from the picture surface.

Other objects and advantages reside in the detail construction of the invention, which is designed for simplicity, economy, and efficiency. These will become more apparent from the following description.

In the following detailed description of the invention, reference is made to the accompanying drawing which forms a part hereof. Like numerals refer to like parts in all views of the drawing and throughout the description.

In the drawing:

FIG. 1 is a front face view of the cardboard blank from which the self-framed picture is formed;

FIG. 2 is a rear face view of the blank of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a front view of the complete self-framed picture formed from the blank of FIGS. 1 and 2;

FIG. 4 is a longitudinal section through the picture, taken on the line **4—4**, FIG. 3;

FIG. 5 is an enlarged, fragmentary perspective view showing a step in the process of forming the self-framed picture;

FIG. 6 is a still further enlarged fragmentary, detail section taken on the line **6—6**, FIG. 3; and

FIG. 7 is a detail fragmentary end view of a portion of the assembled frame.

The blank is preferably stamped from relatively heavy cardboard of a type having a highly calendered front surface **12**, shown in FIG. 1, and an uncalendered or mat rear surface **13**, shown in FIG. 2. The picture to be framed is imprinted or lithographed on the highly calendered surface **12**, as indicated at **14**, surrounded by a relatively wide, completely enclosing border area **15** which, in turn, is surrounded by a scored border line **16** which outlines a rectangular back area for the picture **14** and its border **15**.

The top and bottom portions of the scored border line **16** foldably join horizontally elongated similar top and bottom frame edge areas **17** and **18**, respectively, to the border area **15** throughout the length of the latter. The left and right end portions of the scored border line **16** similarly join vertical elongated similar left and right

frame edge areas **19** and **20**, respectively, to the ends of the border area **15**.

A horizontally elongated top frame face area **21** is foldably joined to the top frame edge area **17** throughout the length of the latter through the medium of a top scored fold line **22** and a similar elongated bottom frame face area **23** is similarly joined to the bottom frame edge area **18** through the medium of a bottom scored fold line **24**. A vertically elongated left frame face area **25** is foldably joined to the left frame edge area **19** by a left scored fold line **26** and a similar vertically elongated right frame face area **27** is foldably joined to the right frame edge area **20** by a right scored fold line **28**.

An elongated, upper, horizontal sealing flap **29** and a similar lower sealing flap **30** are foldably secured to the top frame face area **21** and the bottom frame face area **23**, respectively, by means of a second top and a second bottom scored fold line **31** and **32**, respectively. A vertically-elongated left and sealing flap **33** and a similar right end sealing flap **34** are foldably secured to the left and right frame face areas **25** and **27**, respectively, by means of a second left scored fold line **35**, and a second right scored fold line **36**, respectively.

The above top and bottom areas **17**, **18**, **21** and **23**, and the upper and lower sealing flaps **29** and **30** are all equal in length to the border area **15**. The top and bottom frame face areas **21** and **23** terminate at both their extremities in triangular frame closing tabs **37** joined thereto by scored fold lines **38**. The left and right frame edge areas **19** and **20** are equal in height to the border area **15** and each terminates at both of its extremities in an arcuate corner locking tab **39** joined thereto on a tab fold line **40**. The left and right frame face areas are equal in length to the left and right frame edge areas **19** and **20** where they join the latter. The extremities of the left and right frame face areas **25** and **27**, however, are inclined inwardly toward each other at an angle of 45°, as shown at **41**, to join the left and right end sealing flaps **33** and **34**. The latter flaps have a vertical length equal to the height of the border area **15** less twice the width of the frame face areas.

As illustrated in FIG. 2, the back sides of all of the areas **17**, **18**, **19**, **20**, **21**, **23**, **25**, and **27**, and the aligning tabs **37**, and the corner closing tabs **39** are lithographed or imprinted to simulate any desired frame surface such as wood coloring and graining, as illustrated in FIG. 2. It is preferred to extend the simulated design inwardly across the scored border line **16**, as indicated at **42**, so that the eventual fold along the line **16** will be completely covered.

A strip of double-faced adhesive tape **43** is permanently secured by means of its lower adhesive face along the back side of each of the end sealing flaps **33** and **34** adjacent to, and parallel with, the second scored fold lines **35** and **36**. A similar strip of double-faced adhesive tape **44** is similarly secured to the back side of the upper and the back side of the lower sealing flaps **29** and **30** adjacent to, and parallel with, the second top and bottom scored fold lines **31** and **32**. The upper adhesive faces of all of the adhesive strips are temporarily covered by a removable fabric cap strip **45**.

The self-framing pictures are initially marketed in the flat sheet condition of FIGS. 1 and 2. Before being hung they are self-framed, as illustrated in FIGS. 3 and 4.

The framing is accomplished by laying the blank upon a flat surface and peeling the fabric cap strips from the top and bottom portions thence bending the latter portions vertically upward upon the scored top and bottom border lines **16**. The upper and lower sealing flaps **29** and **30** are now folded inwardly and downwardly

on the second top and bottom fold lines **31** and **32** and the top and bottom frame face areas **21** and **23** are folded toward each other along the scored fold lines **22** and **24** until the sealing flaps **29** and **30** be flat against the border area **15** and in abutting relation with the vertical top and bottom frame edge areas **17** and **18**, as shown in FIG. 6. Finger pressure is now applied along the inner edge of the folded frame face areas **21** and **23** to adhesively and permanently attach the sealing flaps, throughout their entire lengths, to the exposed adhesive surfaces of the adhesive strips **44**. We have now provided a top and a bottom frame member of hollow triangular cross-section for the picture **14**. The ends of the top and bottom frame member are now closed by swinging the four triangular closing tabs **37** downwardly into the ends of the two frame members as shown in FIG. 5.

The fabric cap strips **45** are now peeled from the two end adhesive tapes **43** and the two end portions of the blank are bent and folded, as shown in FIG. 5, similarly to the procedure above described with reference to the end portions, the four arcuate locking tabs **39** are turned upwardly so that they will slidably rotate into the extremities of the top and bottom frame members between the triangular closing tabs and the frame edge areas to completely close the corner, as shown in FIG. 7.

When in final position, the inclined end frame face areas **25** and **27** will overlap and lay tightly against the inclined top and bottom frame face areas **21** and **23** so that the inclined frame surfaces will be completely closed at the corners without the possibility of gapping or separating. The continuous adhesive attachment prevents any gapping or separation between the frame and the picture area. Thus, a framed picture is provided having the appearance of a picture with a perfect, expensive independent frame.

While a specific form of the invention has been described and illustrated herein, it is to be understood that

the same may be varied within the scope of the appended claims, without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Having thus described the invention what is claimed and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

A self-framing picture comprising: a rectangular cardboard blank having a picture on its front face; elongated frame edge areas foldably joined to the top, bottom and end edges of said blank; elongated frame face areas foldably joined to the outer edges of said frame edge areas; elongated sealing flaps foldably joined to the outer edges of said frame face areas; adhesive areas on the back faces of, and extending the full length of, said sealing flaps so that said frame edge areas may be folded upwardly from said blank and said frame face areas may be folded inwardly over said blank and said sealing flaps may then be folded outwardly between said frame face areas and said blank and adhesively secured to the latter through the medium of said adhesive areas to form a closed three-dimensional frame of triangular cross section about said picture; a triangular closing tab foldably attached on each extremity of the frame face areas at the top and bottom of said blank which may be folded to close the extremities of the triangular cross section; and an arcuate locking tab foldably projecting from each extremity of the two frame edge areas at the ends of said blank for insertion into the extremities of the two frame edge areas at the top and bottom of said blank when said frame is assembled to close the corners of the latter.

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