June 10, 1941. C. S. PRICE 2,245,363

PICTURE FRAME

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Fig. 1.

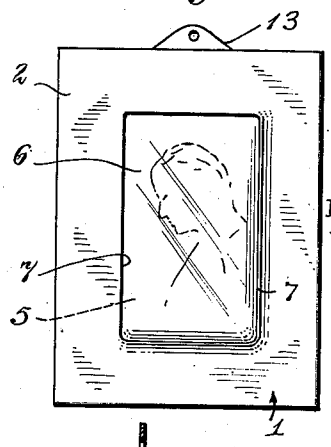
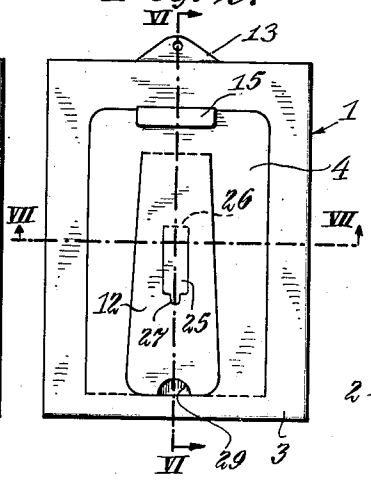



Fig. 2.



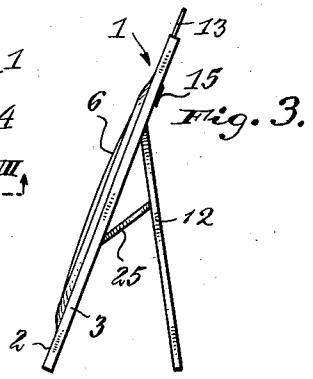




Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

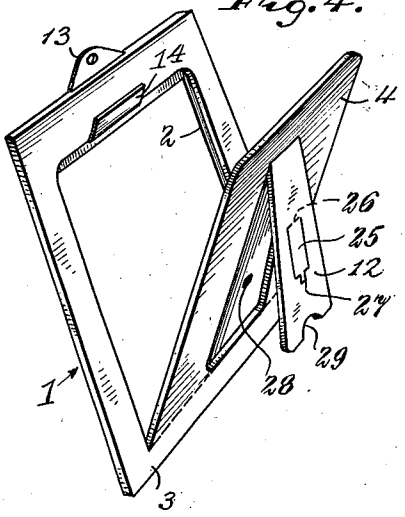



Fig. 10.

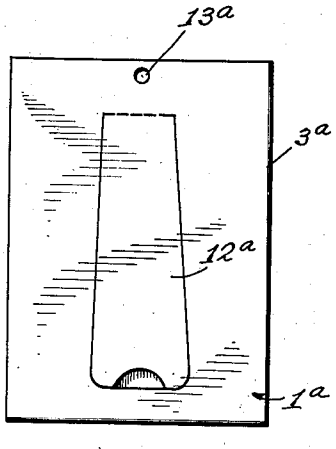



Fig. 6.

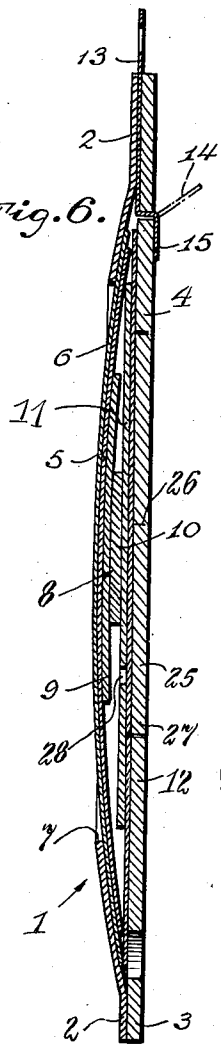
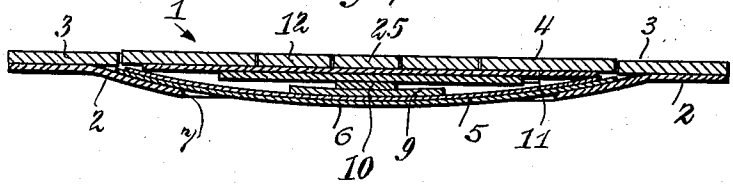



Fig. 7.




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Fig. 5.

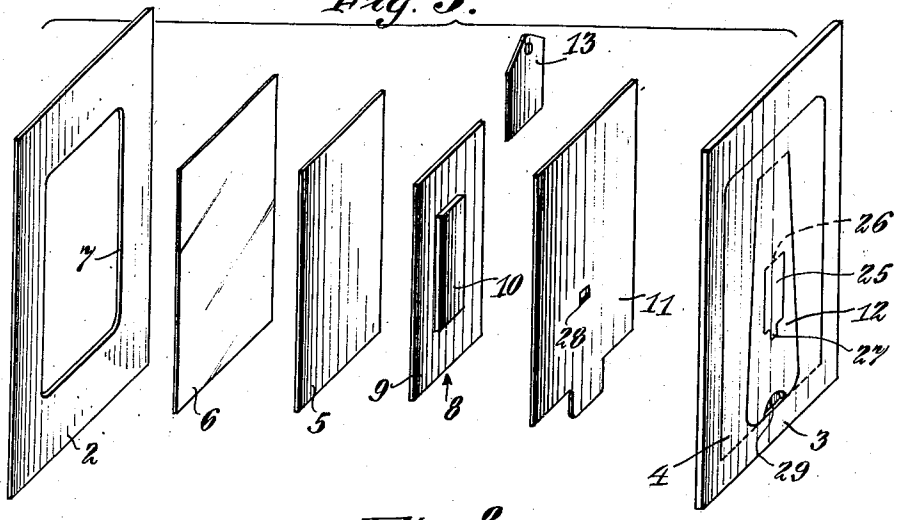



Fig. 8.

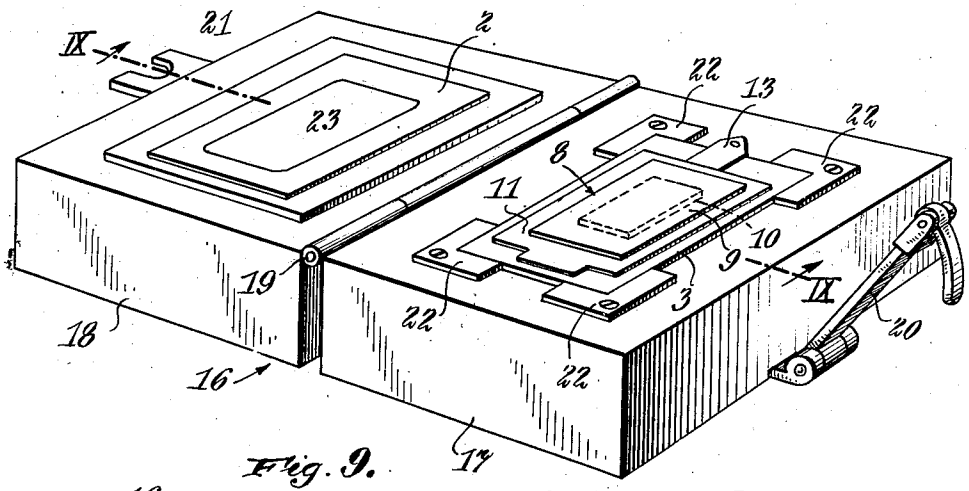
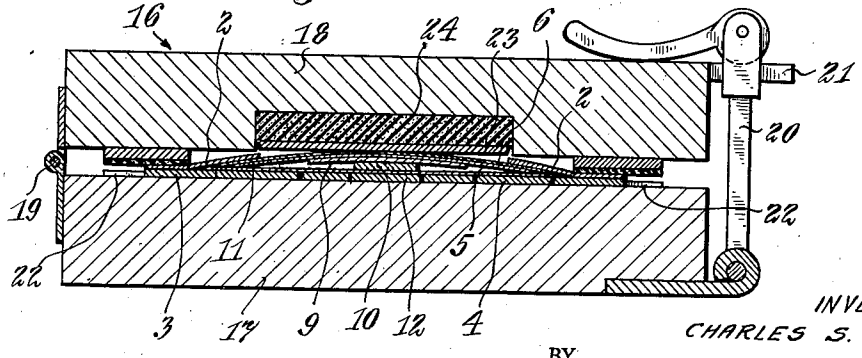



Fig. 9.




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Patented June 10, 1941

2,245,363

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,245,363

## PICTURE FRAME

Charles S. Price, Hollis, N. Y.

Application May 25, 1937, Serial No. 144,567

12 Claims. (Cl. 40—152.1)

This invention relates to picture frames or photomounts, with the parts so arranged that pictures may be readily interchanged.

The principal object of my invention, generally considered, is to provide for economical mass production of picture frames, so that very attractive frames for photographs and the like may be produced on an economical basis.

Another object of my invention is the provision of a picture frame having a hinged back through which the picture may be removed or inserted and a novel means of closure, said frame also desirably including an easel and loop hanger.

A further object of my invention is the provision of a picture frame consisting of a few simple pieces which can be economically produced with standard tools and assembled inexpensively by means of a special assembling fixture.

Other objects and advantages of the invention, relating to the particular arrangement and construction of the various parts, will become apparent as the description proceeds.

Referring to the drawings illustrating my invention;

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view of a frame embodying my invention.

Fig. 2 is a rear elevational view of the frame of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a side elevational view of the frame of Figs. 1 and 2, with the easel in supporting position and its tongue locking it in place.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the frame with the door or hinged portion of the back and easel in open positions and the tongue unlocked.

Fig. 5 is an exploded view indicating the manner of assembling the parts.

Fig. 6 is an enlarged vertical sectional view on the line VI—VI of Fig. 2, looking in the direction of the arrows.

Fig. 7 is an enlarged horizontal sectional view on the line VII—VII of Fig. 2, looking in the direction of the arrows.

Fig. 8 is a perspective view of the fixture or jig, for assembling the parts of the frame, when in open position.

Fig. 9 is a vertical sectional view of the fixture, when in closed position, on the line IX—IX of Fig. 8, looking in the direction of the arrows.

Fig. 10 is a view corresponding to Fig. 2 but showing another embodiment.

Referring to the drawings in detail, like parts being designated by like reference characters, and first considering the embodiment of my invention illustrated in Figs. 1 to 7 inclusive, there is shown a picture frame 1 comprising a decorative face portion 2, which is preferably made of thin metal of a gold color, printed and embossed, and a back portion 3, desirably formed of heavy cardboard and combined along its outer edges with the face portion or plate 2. The back portion or backing 3 is desirably cut to provide an opening, allowing a central or door portion 4 thereof to swing back and permit a picture 5 to be inserted.

A Celluloid or other transparent window, designated by the reference character 6, desirably covers the face of the picture and appears in the opening 7 in the face portion of the frame. Said window 6 may be fastened to the face portion 2 or be initially loose and held in place when the portions of the frame are assembled.

A pressure pad 8 is employed, preferably consisting of a plurality of resilient cardboard members 9 and 10, desirably glued together, the larger member 9 engaging the picture and the smaller member 10 engaging an intermediate member 11, which in turn engages the back and covers the opening left by the hinged easel portion 12 of said back, when the same is moved to open or frame supporting position, as illustrated in Fig. 3. The free or normally lower end of the easel portion 12 is desirably formed with a notch 29, as illustrated, to facilitate engagement thereof for opening.

An apertured or loop hanger member 13, desirably made from one piece of thin metal, is assembled between the face portion 2 of the frame and the cardboard backing 3, with its associated intermediate member 11, as shown most clearly in Figs. 5 and 6.

The construction, above described, provides a very compact unit when folded, with no projecting parts, making it possible to pack in bulk with ease.

The means for holding the door 4 closed when the parts are assembled desirably comprises a soft piece of metal which may be separate from or a part of the loop hanger portion 13. The metal is desirably annealed aluminum and extends rearwardly from the surface of the backing 3, as indicated at 14, while the hinged back is pressed into position, and it is then folded over the upper edge, as indicated at 15, holding the same firmly in place. On account of the character of the metal piece, this operation may be repeated many times.

The easel 12 desirably has a locking device for

holding it in the extended or supporting position. In the present embodiment this device takes the form of an inwardly foldable tongue 25 struck therefrom, as by means of a die, which leaves it hingedly connected to the easel at one end, as indicated at the scoring line 26, and forms a locking lug 27 frictionally retained in a pocket or aperture 28 in the intermediate member 11, when the easel is held in the desired extended or supporting position. The use of such a locking device is especially desirable when the frame 1 is used with its long axis horizontally disposed, as when holding a picture having a width greater than its height.

I propose to assemble the parts of such frames or photomounts by means of a special jig or fixture 16, as shown in Figs. 8 and 9. The fixture comprises a bottom or base portion 17 and a top or pressure portion 18 hinged thereto, as indicated at 19. A cam lock 20 serves to hold the parts together by engaging the keeper 21 on the upper or pressure portion 18. The bottom portion 17 has fixed outer gauges 22 secured thereon and the hinged portion 18 has a retractible center gauge 23.

The manner of employing the fixture for assembling the parts of the frame is desirably as follows:

The heavy cardboard backing 3 is placed upon the stationary or base portion 17 of the fixture, within the gauges 22. The intermediate member 11 is then placed on the backing member 3 followed by the pressure pad 8. Before placing in position, glue is desirably applied to the back of the pressure pad portion 10 and the edges of the intermediate member 11 so that said parts will be secured to the backing portion 3 of the frame.

The loop hanger 13 is placed in its correct position above the filler member 11, in the position indicated by the gauges on the fixture 17, followed by the picture 5 and Celluloid window 6.

The face plate 2, the back of which is gummed, or has remoistening glue applied thereto, is then applied, gum side up, upon the movable or hinged part 18 of the fixture, being held in place by means of the interior retractible gauge 23. The gauge 23 is desirably mounted on sponge rubber or other resilient means or material 24, so that when the parts of the fixture are clamped together, it goes back into the body of the hinged portion 18. The exposed or gummed side of this face plate is then moistened by a wet sponge or other means and the fixture immediately closed and locked under pressure by means of the toggle lock 20. The pressure applied by this lock insures intimate contact between the parts which, because of the gauges, are correctly assembled.

Closing of the cam lock 20 maintains pressure between all of the assembled members until the glue has had a chance to stick the parts together, so that when the pressure is removed and the fixture 16 opened, the entire completed frame or photomount may be removed as a unit.

As a final operation the locking means 13 is folded outwardly, as indicated at 14 in Fig. 6, and then bent over the upper edge of the folding door portion 4, as indicated at 15, after said door portion has been returned to its closed position. The easel 12 and locking tongue 25 may then be moved to supporting position, as illustrated in Fig. 3.

Referring now to the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 10, a frame 1a is disclosed which may be identical with the frame 1 of the first embodiment, except that there is no hinged door portion or flexible metal member for holding said door portion closed, the backing 3a having an aperture 13a, which functions like the aperture in the member 13 of the first embodiment, for hanging the frame. The backing portion 3a however, desirably has a hinged easel portion 12a and other parts, as the portion 3 of the frame of the first embodiment, although shown without the optional easel locking device.

In the present embodiment, however, the back 3a is intended to be glued to the face portion 1a of the frame permanently, whereby the frame 1a is not adapted for the ready interchange of pictures like the frame 1.

Although preferred embodiments of my invention have been illustrated and described, it will be understood that modifications may be made within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A picture frame comprising a face portion provided with an aperture through which a picture may appear, and a back portion consisting of cardboard or the like cut to approximately coincide with the outer edges of the face portion to which it is secured, and provided with a door portion cut and swingable therefrom, and an easel portion cut from, and hinged thereto about an axis adjacent the free edge of, said door portion, causing the frame to stand.

2. A picture frame comprising a decorative face portion provided with a suitable aperture through which the picture appears, and a back portion consisting of cardboard or the like cut to approximately coincide with the outer edges of the face portion to which it is glued, said back being cut to provide a hinged door portion, said door portion being provided with an easel portion hingedly secured thereto adjacent the free edge of said door portion, and arranged to be positioned for causing the frame to stand.

3. A picture frame consisting of a decorative face portion provided with a suitable aperture through which the picture appears, and a back portion consisting of heavy cardboard, cut to approximately coincide with the outer edges of the face portion to which it is glued, said back being provided with a bottom hinged door portion having a top hinged easel portion cut therefrom and integral therewith, and means for holding said door in closed position for retaining the picture in place.

4. A picture frame comprising a decorative face portion provided with a suitable aperture through which the picture appears, a back consisting of heavy cardboard cut to approximately coincide with the outer edges of the face portion to which it is glued, said back being provided with a hinged door portion having an easel portion cut therefrom and integral therewith, and a thin soft metallic strip extending from the back of said frame and bendable over the free edge of said door portion for holding it closed.

5. A picture frame comprising a decorative face portion with a suitable aperture through which the picture appears, a back portion consisting of heavy cardboard cut to approximately coincide with the outer edges of the face portion to which it is glued, said back having a hinged door portion with an easel cut therefrom and integral therewith, means for holding said door portion in closed position, and a pressure pad centrally disposed with respect to said aperture, between a

picture and said back portion, for embossing said picture outwardly in said aperture.

6. A picture frame consisting of a decorative face portion provided with a suitable aperture through which the picture appears, and a back portion consisting of heavy cardboard, cut to approximately coincide with the outer edges of the face portion to which it is glued, said back being provided with a hinged door portion having an easel portion cut therefrom and integral therewith, and means comprising a locking member extending between the easel and frame for holding said easel in extended supporting position so that the frame will stand up on either a long edge or a short edge.

7. A picture frame comprising a decorative face portion provided with a suitable aperture through which the picture appears, a back consisting of cardboard, provided with a bottom hinged door portion having a top hinged easel portion, and a metallic strip extending from the back of said frame and bendable over a free edge of said door portion for holding it closed.

8. A picture frame comprising a decorative face portion provided with a suitable aperture through which the picture appears, a back consisting of cardboard, provided with a bottom hinged door portion allowing convenient insertion and removal of a picture, and an apertured metallic strip disposed between the face and back portion, with its apertured portion projecting therebeyond to receive supporting means, and its other end portion extending from the back of said frame and bendable over a free edge of said door portion for holding it closed.

9. A picture frame comprising a decorative face portion with a suitable aperture through which the picture appears, a back portion consisting of cardboard, having a bottom hinged door portion, and a pressure pad centrally disposed with respect to said aperture, between a picture and said back portion, for embossing said picture outwardly in said aperture.

10. A picture frame consisting of a decorative face portion provided with a suitable aperture through which the picture appears, and a back portion consisting of cardboard having a door portion for the insertion and removal of pictures, an easel portion cut from said door portion and integral therewith, and means hinged to said easel portion, and with its free end interlockingly engageable with respect to said back portion, for holding said easel in extended supporting position.

11. A picture frame comprising a decorative face portion with a suitable aperture through which the picture appears, a back portion consisting of cardboard, a pressure pad centrally disposed with respect to said aperture, between a picture and said back portion, for embossing said picture outwardly in said aperture, an easel hinged to said frame, and a locking member extending between said easel and frame, hinged to one and frictionally fitting an aperture in the other.

12. A picture frame comprising a decorative face portion with a suitable aperture through which the picture appears, and a back portion consisting of cardboard provided with a door portion allowing for the reception of said picture between said door and face portions, an easel hinged to said door portion, and a locking member extending between said easel and frame, hinged at its upper end to one, and with its free end portion reduced to form a lug which frictionally fits an aperture or pocket in, and is confined between the faces of, the other.

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