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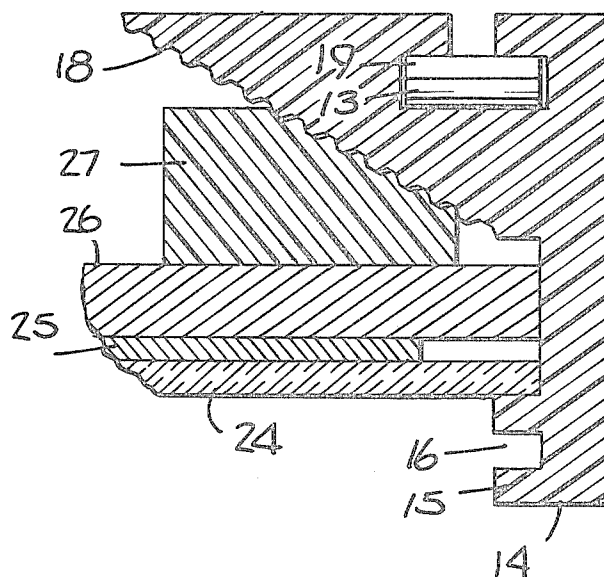
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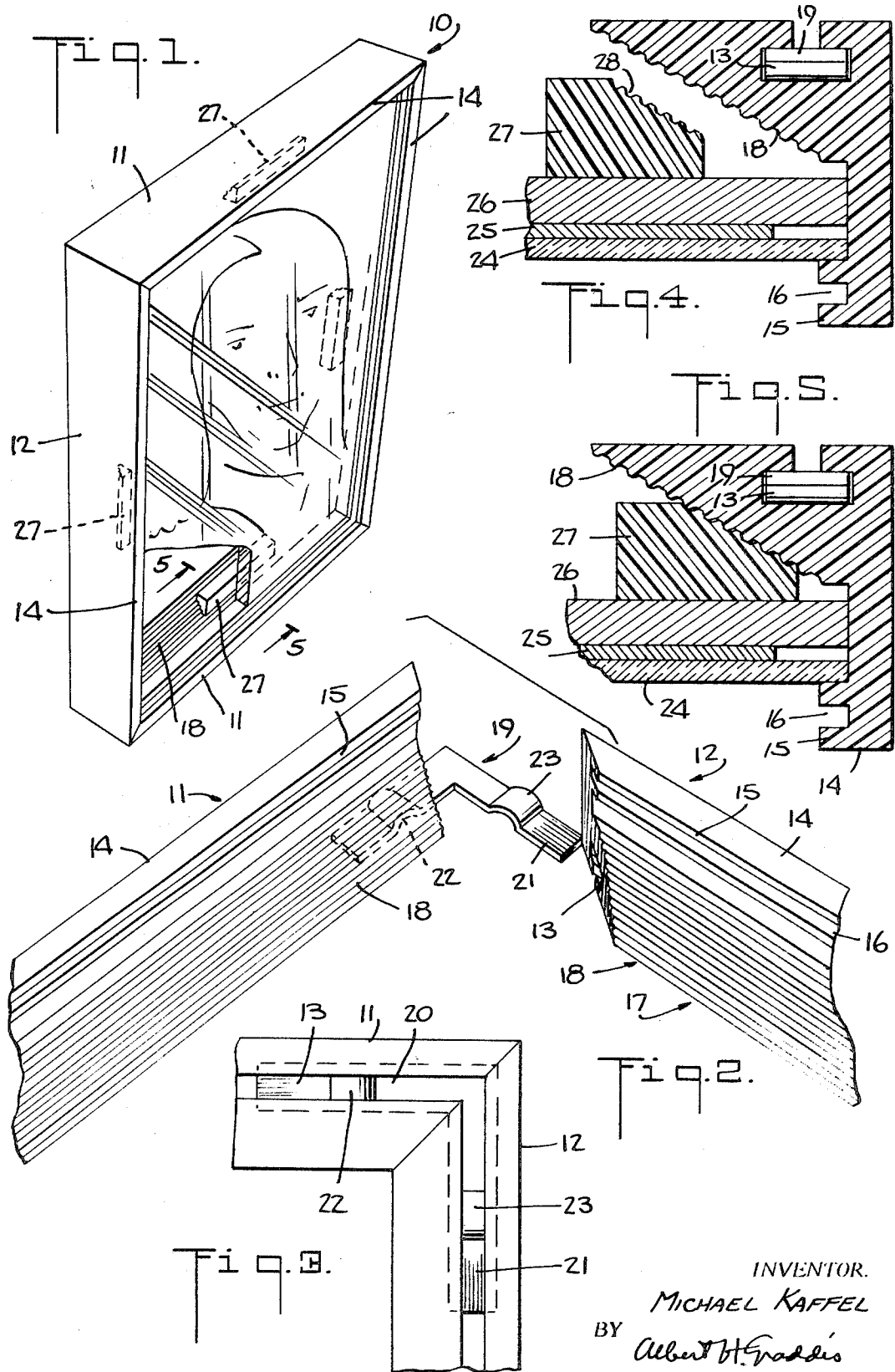
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[54] **PICTURE FRAME STRUCTURE**  
 2 Claims, 5 Drawing Figs.

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 [51] Int. Cl..... F16b  
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 54 C; 52/656

**ABSTRACT:** Picture frame formed of extruded vertical and horizontal elements wherein a corner bracket cooperates with channels molded into the profile of the vertical and horizontal frame elements to hold the elements firmly in assembled position and serrated wedges are provided for demountably holding a framed picture in the assembled frame elements.





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# PICTURE FRAME STRUCTURE

The present invention relates to a novel sectional picture frame structure and relates more particularly to a picture frame structure formed from a plurality of interchangeable elements of variable length but of the same cross-sectional profile so as to permit completed picture frame structures to be easily and quickly assembled and disassembled.

Picture frames are most commonly formed of wooden side members of varying cross section and design and even in modest sizes are relatively expensive since they are difficult to cut and bevel and then to assemble accurately with joints which are neatly fitted and precise. In addition, in any completely framed picture, the placing of the particular picture in the frame is relatively permanent since the usual glass facing, mats and backing which are employed with the picture must be held in the frame by means of a series of nails hammered into the frame. The glass facing, picture, mats and backing are sealed off at the rear by a sheet material such as paper which is permanently glued into position so that the problem of dust collecting inside on the surface of the picture or on the inside of the glass facing covering the picture will be minimized. Once framed, of course, there is no possibility of interchanging the frame and picture with another without the necessity for unsealing the combination and going through all the steps necessary for redoing the whole framing operation.

It is, therefore, an important object of this invention to provide a picture frame structure formed of interchangeable prefabricated parts which may be assembled quickly and easily to form an attractive and economical frame structure.

Another object of this invention is to provide a picture frame structure wherein the picture, mats and any glass or backing employed in connection with the framed picture may be locked into position in the frame without employing the usual nails and then readily disassembled as desired for cleaning, etc.

A further object of this invention is to provide a novel picture frame structure wherein the elements forming the sides of the frame are formed by extrusion processes in the desired cross-sectional profile and substantially any desired longitudinal dimension.

Yet another object of this invention is the provision of pre-molded channels in the picture frame elements which are pre-molded so as to be adapted to receive locking members which when locked into position in cooperation with said picture frame elements produces a clean, strong and attractive corner joint in said assembled picture frame.

Other objects of this invention will appear from the following detailed description.

In the drawing:

FIG. 1 is a view in perspective of a picture frame in assembled form showing a completely framed picture and, in phantom, the wedge means provided for locking the framed picture in its normal display position within the frame;

FIG. 2 is a detail of the picture frame assembly, in perspective, showing the manner in which the corner-locking means cooperates with the picture frame members to form a firm, rigid corner;

FIG. 3 is a rear view of a corner of the picture frame assembly showing the corner-locking means and picture frame members in final assembled position;

FIG. 4 is a sectional view of the assembled frame with the framed picture in position illustrating the manner in which the wedge means provided for locking the picture in position cooperates with the frame; and

FIG. 5 is a sectional view taken along line 5—5 in FIG. 1 showing the wedge means locked into position in cooperation with the frame member and holding the framed picture in locked position.

Like members indicated like parts throughout the several views of the drawing.

Referring now to the drawing, and more particularly to FIG. 1, reference numeral 10 generally indicates a picture and picture frame assembled in accordance with the present invention comprising a pair of horizontal members 11 cooperating with a pair of vertical members 12.

Both the horizontal and vertical members comprising said frame are of identical cross-sectional profile. Most conveniently the members are formed by continuously extruding a suitable thermoplastic material through a die of the desired shape. Thus, frame members of substantially any desired length may be formed and only require, as shown in FIG. 2, that they be beveled at each end at a 45° angle to be ready for assembly.

In cross-sectional profile horizontal members 11 and vertical members 12 are extruded through a die so formed that each is provided with a continuous longitudinal slot 13 which communicates with the rear face of each member as shown in FIG. 3. The front face 14 is provided with an overhanging lip 15 which may be solid or may be provided with a decorative groove 16. The inner face of each of the picture frame members is extruded so that the surface forms a series of parallel serrations 18 whose function will be described more particularly hereinafter.

In order to bring the horizontal and vertical frame members into assembled position, a corner-locking means is provided in the form of a right-angled bracket 19 having a horizontal leg 20 and a vertical leg 21. Each leg is curved at the center to form bulges 22 and 23. Thus, as shown in FIG. 2, horizontal leg 20 of bracket 19 is slid into longitudinal slot 13 of horizontal member 11 and vertical leg 21 is slid into the longitudinal slot 13 provided in vertical member 12. Members 11 and 12 are then pressed home with bracket 19 in position until the beveled ends of said members are in touching contact thus forming a corner as shown in FIG. 3. Since bulge 22 and 23 cause each leg of bracket 19 to be slightly thicker than the corresponding dimension of longitudinal slot 13, a firmly anchored frictional fit is thereby produced in each of the four corners comprising the assembled picture frame.

In order to mount a picture in the assembled frame a sheet of glass 24, as shown in FIGS. 4 and 5 and cut to the proper dimensions of length and width, is placed in the assembled frame so as to engage the inner surface of overhanging lip 15. The picture 25 being framed is mounted on a support or backing 26 which is also cut to the proper dimensions of length and width, and is then placed in position behind glass 24. A locking wedge 27 having a serrated surface 28 is then placed in the position shown in FIG. 4. Locking wedge 27 is then pressed into the position shown in FIG. 5 thus causing serrated surface 28 to be locked into the serrations 18 of inner face 17 and in this manner the combination of glass 24, picture 25 and support 26 is held firmly against overhanging lip 15. By utilizing a plurality of wedges 27, as shown in FIG. 1, one or more cooperating with each of the horizontal and vertical members forming the assembled picture, the mounted picture is held firmly in position. To change the picture, or to remove it for dusting, wedges 27 are forcibly withdrawn, the picture then cleaned, or replaced if desired, and the picture then returned to the frame and locked in position as described by resetting locking wedges 27 back into their original position as shown in FIG. 5.

What is claimed is:

1. In a picture frame assembly comprising a pair of vertical and a pair of horizontal members forming said frame and adapted to receive a picture therein, said members being readily separable from each other but normally maintained in angular abutting relationship to each other by corner assembly means, said vertical and horizontal members each being extruded elements having the same cross-sectional profile, said profile including front, side, inner and rear faces, the said front face forming an overhanging lip of which reenters to form a portion of a recessed inner face, the surface of said recessed inner face comprising a plurality of longitudinal serrations, said rear face having a continuous longitudinal slot

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recessed into and communicating with said rear face and adapted to slidably receive and frictionally engage a corner assembly means, said corner assembly means comprising a two-legged right-angled bracket, one leg of each being adapted to enter and frictionally engage the longitudinal slot provided in each of said vertical and horizontal members and thereby to form a rigid corner, and wedge means in cooperative engagement with the serrated portion of the recessed inner faces and

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thereby engage the rear surface of the picture being framed and to thus maintain it in fixed position against the rear surface of said overhanging lip.

2. Assembly in accordance with claim 1 wherein a surface of said wedge means is provided with a plurality of serrations complementary to those provided in the recessed inner face.

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