Dec. 21, 1948. C. C. MILES 2,456,720

EASEL PICTURE FRAME

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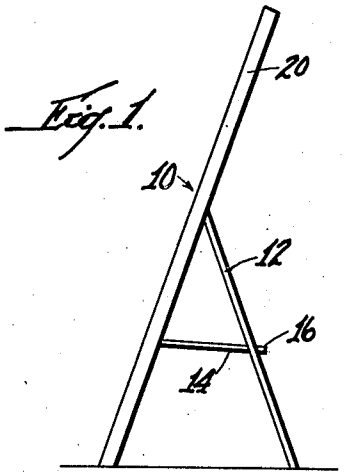


Fig. 1.

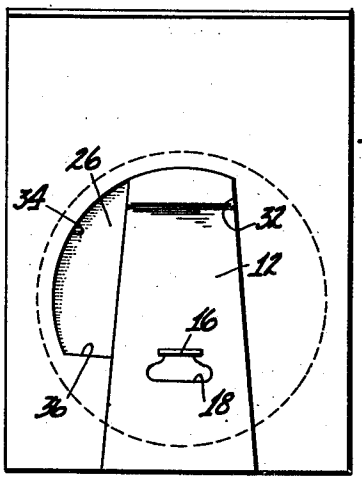


Fig. 2.

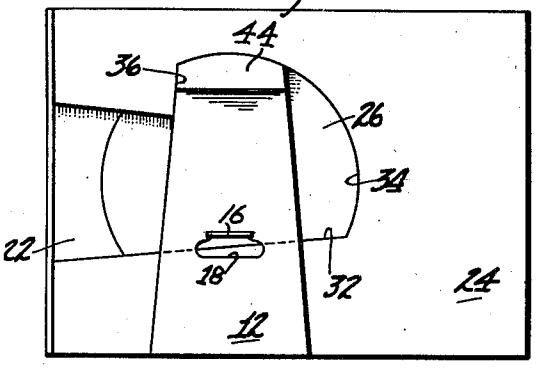


Fig. 3.

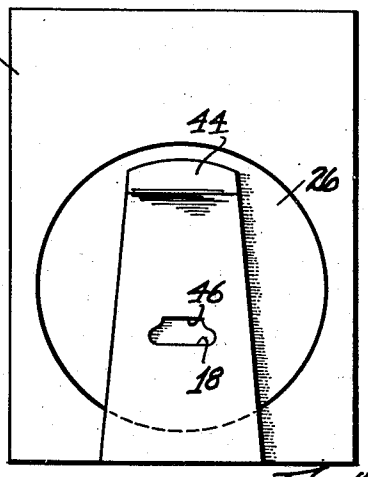


Fig. 4.

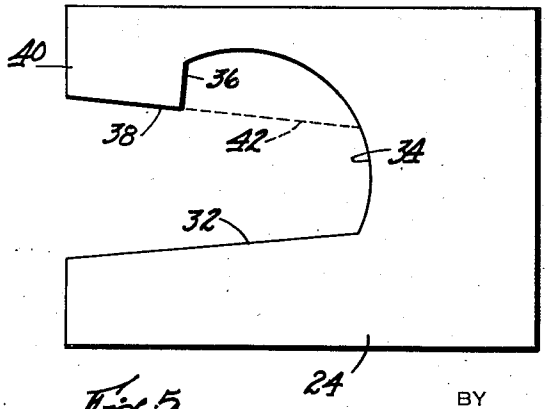


Fig. 5.

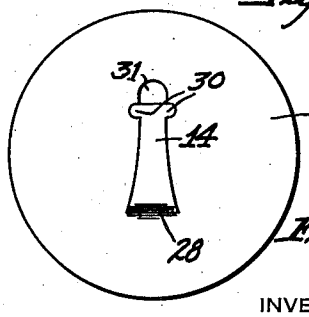


Fig. 6.

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EASEL PICTURE FRAME

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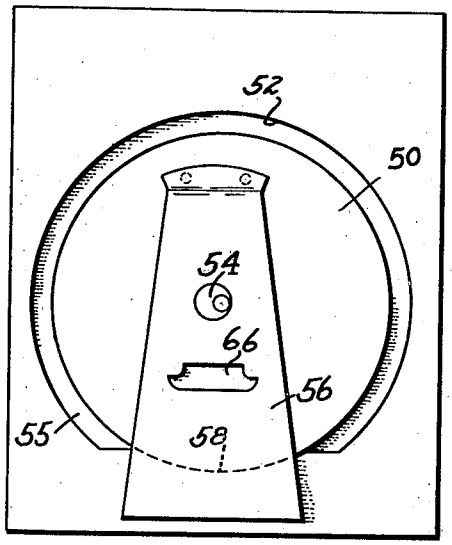


Fig. 7.

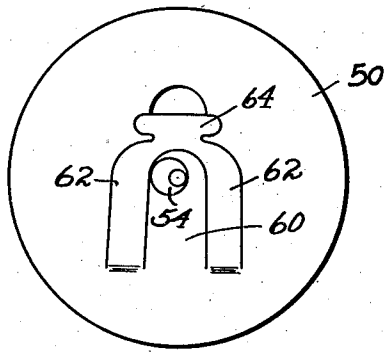


Fig. 8.

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Patented Dec. 21, 1948

2,456,720

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,456,720

EASEL PICTURE FRAME

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Application June 24, 1947, Serial No. 756,592

8 Claims. (Cl. 248—37)

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This invention relates to new and improved picture frames and particularly to easel constructions therefor.

The objects of the present invention include the provision of an easel for a picture frame, said easel being rotatably mounted on an axis transverse to the picture frame at the rear surface thereof so that the easel may be positioned to hold the frame vertically or horizontally merely by giving the easel a 90° rotation on its axis; and the provision of an easel type picture frame as above stated including new and improved stop means for locating the easel in either of its two positions for holding the frame horizontally or vertically, said stop means comprising cut edge elements of the backboard of the picture frame, and the easel itself comprising a part which is cut out of the backboard.

Further objects of the invention include the provision of an easel type picture frame comprising a backboard, a middle board, and a front board, the backboard being cut out to form stops at interior edges thereof to locate and position a rotary type easel in either horizontal or vertical position, the easel being cut out of the backboard and thereby fitting the same and the stops; a circular disc being cut out of the middle board, said disc being rotatable in the cut out hole from which it is obtained as a rotary guide means therefor, the easel being secured in any desired way to the disc for rotation therewith, the disc preferably being rotated by using the easel as a handle and the disc having an easel strut cut out therefrom and bendable to a position engaging the easel and holding it extended in any position whether horizontal or vertical, the disc being held in place by being overlapped by the interior cut edges of the backboard.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will appear hereinafter.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings in which

Fig. 1 is a view in side elevation of the picture frame;

Fig. 2 is a rear view showing the picture frame held in vertical position;

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 but showing the picture frame in horizontal position;

Fig. 4 is a rear view of the middle board, the disc cut therefrom and the attached easel;

Fig. 5 is a view of the backboard alone;

Fig. 6 is a view of the disc alone; and

Figs. 7 and 8 show a modification.

In the prior art it has been necessary to provide two completely separate frames of the same

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size so as to provide customers with frames which may be set on their long edges, i. e., horizontal, or set upright on their short edges, i. e., vertical. This invention provides a rotary type easel which can be positioned to hold the frame in either position, thus providing for manufacture of but one frame of each size, such frame being disposable horizontally or vertically as desired.

Fig. 1 shows a picture frame generally indicated at 10 supported by an easel 12 in turn held in position by a strut 14 having a head 16 projecting through a hole 18 in the easel.

This picture frame and easel is composed of a front board and open frame front which are not shown since the edges of the picture frame as at 20 may be bound with finishing material. However, the front board receives the picture directly on its surface under the open frame front, and in some cases a spacer board will be used to accommodate a pane of glass or the like, all as is old and well known. The present picture frame also comprises a middle board 22 which is best shown in Fig. 4 and a backboard 24 best shown in Fig. 5. As is usual, of course, the backboard overlies the middle board which is sandwiched in between the backboard and the front board. The middle board has a circular disc 26 cut out of it so that the disc may be rotated in the hole occasioned by cutting out the disc. The disc itself is shown in Fig. 6 and it is provided with a cut out strut 14 which bends on line 28 from the disc while still being attached thereto. The strut is provided with the head 16 forming a pair of lateral ears 30 for a purpose to be described, and at 31 there is shown a cut out finger hole.

The backboard 24 is cut out along a straight line 32 joining an arc 34 in turn joining a straight portion 36 located on a slight angle relative to a center line transverse of the backboard. The straight line 36 then joins a terminating line 38 which joins with the bottom edge 40 of the backboard.

The easel 12 is of the shape shown in Figs. 2, 3, and 4 and is obtained when the backboard is cut out along lines 32, 34, and 38. Dotted line 42 indicates the line where the other side of the easel from 32 is cut and the space between lines 34, 42, and 36 is waste material.

The easel is then joined to the disc at its narrow end 44 but is not secured at any other point thereto, and lies diametrically thereof covering the strut 14.

The middle board is then secured to the front

board at its area outside of the disc **26** and in turn the backboard **24** is secured to the middle board, also in places not touching the disc **26**, which is, therefore, free to revolve as guided by the circular cut out forming the disc in the middle board, and overlapped by the backboard.

As shown in Fig. 2 the picture frame is upright and the right hand longer edge of easel **12** abuts the cut out line **32** of the disc **26**, the attached end **44** of the easel being in the plane of the backboard. The head **16** of the strut is thrust through the hole **18** which is provided with a neck **46** and the ears **30** extend rearwardly outwardly of the easel and lock the same in the neck **46**.

If it is desired to place the frame in horizontal position, the easel is grasped and rotated 90° counter-clockwise from the Fig. 2 position to that shown in Fig. 3 and the left hand straight long edge of the easel abuts the edge **36** in the region of end **44** positioning the easel in upright condition when the frame is horizontal.

It will be seen that this invention provides an easily manufactured and assembled frame of the class described which is arranged to be held either vertically or horizontally and it will be noted that the easel **12** in Fig. 3 is slightly offset from the center of the picture but not sufficiently to unbalance the supporting effect of the easel. In other words, in Fig. 3 the easel **12** is located as close as it is possible to do so to the center of the picture frame. It will be noted that the easel cannot be taken apart inasmuch as the edges of the disc always lie substantially under the backboard and there is at any one time only a relatively short portion of the arc of the disc exposed. As a matter of fact, the only portion of the disc edge which is ever unenclosed by the backboard **24** is that portion at the bottom of the frame in Fig. 2 and at the left hand side in Fig. 3, which portion is left exposed by reason of the removal of material from the backboard which material forms the easel itself.

Figs. 7 and 8 show a modified device in which the disc **50**, while similar to disc **26** and similarly made, rotates in an enlarged opening **52** in the middle board and is provided with an eccentric pivot **54** secured to a front frame **55** so that as the easel **56** is grasped and swung the disc periphery moves away from the edge **58**, which is contacted by the disc in the position of the easel shown in Fig. 7.

The disc **50** is died out in U-shape as shown in Fig. 8 to provide a finger **60** providing a base for the eccentric **54** and a double strut **62** which has a head **64** to be received in the hole **66** in the easel. The same or similar backboard as shown in Fig. 5 may be used, it being noted that in Fig. 7 this backboard has been removed.

Having thus described my invention and the advantages thereof, I do not wish to be limited to the details herein disclosed otherwise than as set forth in the claims, but what I claim is:

1. An article of manufacture in the nature of a display frame, comprising a backboard cut out to form a pair of edge stops at right angles to each other, a middle board, a disc cut out of the middle board, an easel on the disc, the edges of the latter underlying the backboard, the easel extending out through the cut out portion of the backboard, and the disc having a rotary motion limited by the easel contacting the stops of the backboard, whereby the frame may be supported on different edges.

2. A display frame adapted to be supported upright on either of two edges and comprising a backboard and a middle board, a rotary easel on the latter and the former having stop edges contacted by the easel to limit the rotary motion of the easel, the latter extending through the backboard between the stop edges.

3. A display frame for support on either of two edges and a backboard having a cut out forming a pair of angularly spaced stop edges, a middle board, a rotary easel on the middle board, the backboard overlying the middle board and the easel extending out through the cut out portion of the backboard to contact selectively one or the other of the stop edges.

4. A display frame comprising a pair of superimposed boards secured together, and an easel for supporting the frame selectively on either of two adjacent edges, the easel being rotatably secured to one board and extending through a cut out portion on the other board, said cut out portion providing a pair of stop edges limiting the rotary motion of the easel.

5. The frame of claim 4 wherein the easel is cut out of the said cut out portion.

6. The frame of claim 4 including a circular disc cut out of the said one board, the easel being secured to the disc, and the said other board maintaining the disc in the hole formed by cutting the disc.

7. A display frame comprising a pair of secured boards, one board having a cut out portion forming a pair of angularly spaced stop edges, the other board having a circular hole, a disc in the hole, an easel on the disc, the easel being adapted to extend outwardly through the cut out portion in position to contact selectively one or the other of the stop edges.

8. The display frame of claim 7 including an easel strut on the disc, a head on the strut, the easel having a hole to receive the head, the easel hole having a reduced neck to receive and hold the strut behind the said head.

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The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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