June 9, 1931. H. E. LUHRS 1,809,593

FOLDING ORNAMENT OF EXPANSIBLE TISSUE

Filed Feb. 21, 1930 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

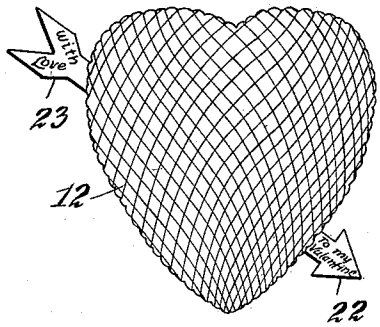


Fig. 1.

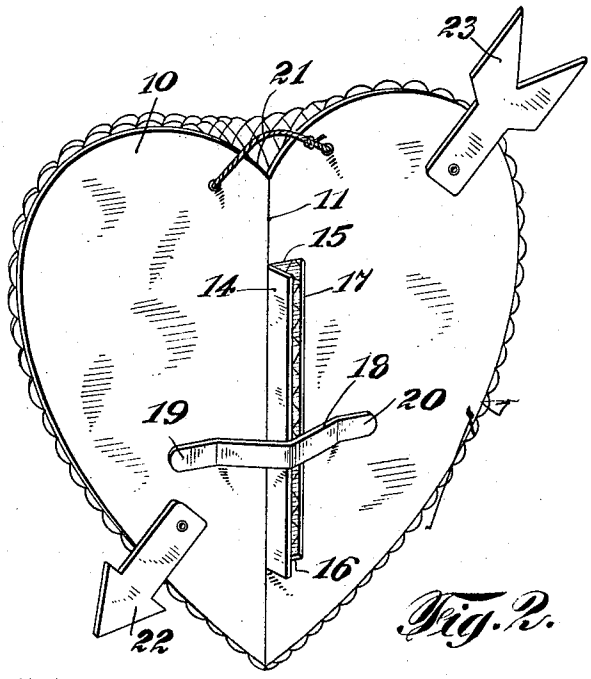


Fig. 2.

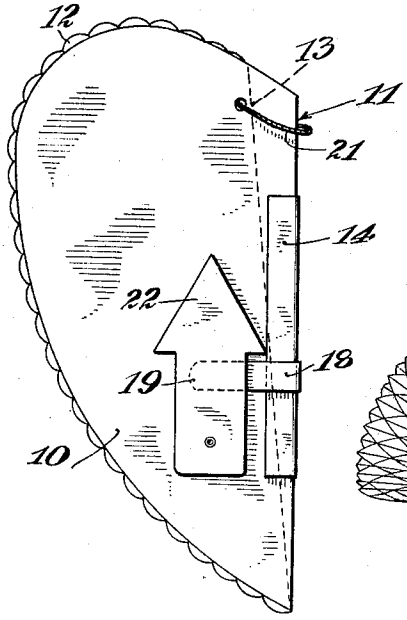


Fig. 4.

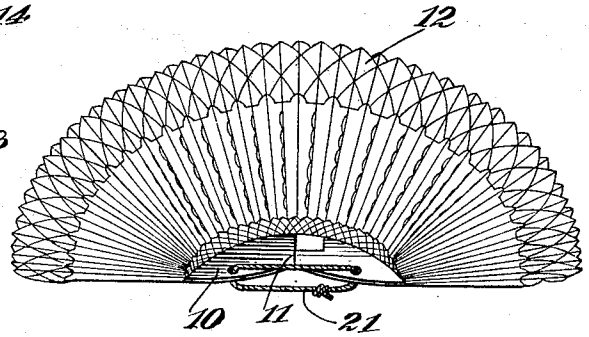


Fig. 3.

Henry E. Luhrs INVENTOR

BY

Frank H. Cook ATTORNEY

June 9, 1931. H. E. LUHRS 1,809,593

FOLDING ORNAMENT OF EXPANSIBLE TISSUE

Filed Feb. 21, 1930 3 Sheets-Sheet 2

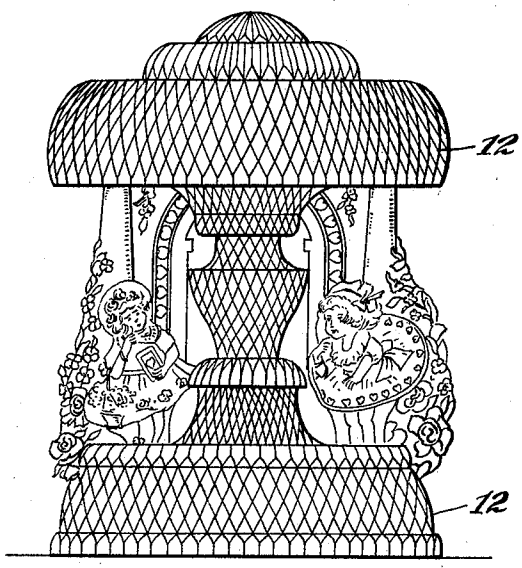


Fig. 5.

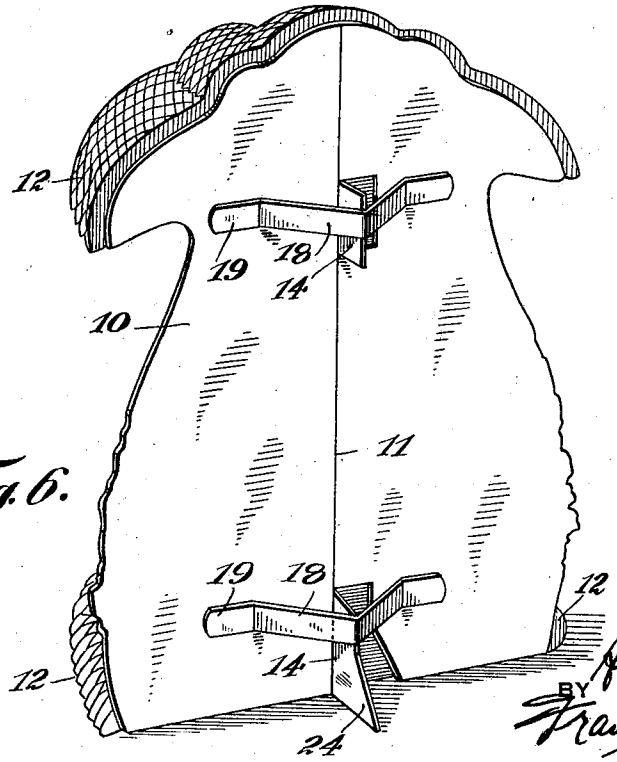


Fig. 6.

INVENTOR
Henry E. Luhrs
BY
Frank H. Cust
ATTORNEY

June 9, 1931. H. E. LUHRS 1,809,593

FOLDING ORNAMENT OF EXPANSIBLE TISSUE

Filed Feb. 21, 1930 3 Sheets-Sheet 3

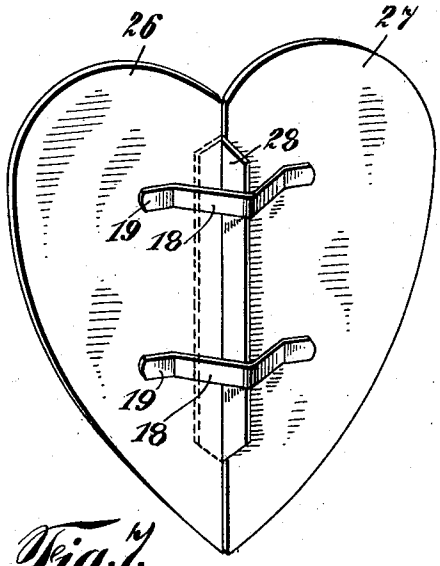


Fig. 7.

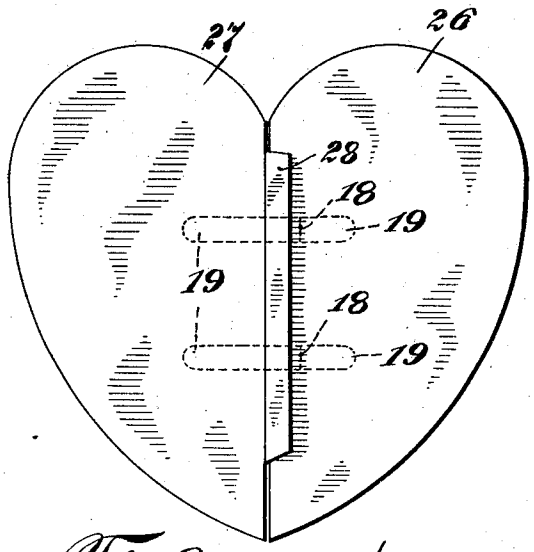


Fig. 8.

Henry E. Luhrs INVENTOR

BY

Frank A. Cook ATTORNEY

Patented June 9, 1931 1,809,593

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

HENRY E. LUHRS, OF SHIPPENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR TO THE BEISTLE COMPANY, OF SHIPPENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA, A CORPORATION OF PENNSYLVANIA

FOLDING ORNAMENT OF EXPANSIBLE TISSUE

Application filed February 21, 1930. Serial No. 430,155.

This invention relates to folding ornaments made from expansible tissue, such as Christmas bells, valentines, etc.

A principal object of the invention is to form a folding ornament of this general class in which the base member, usually of cardboard or similar materials, is formed in one integral piece instead of in two separate pieces as has been the practice in the past, and the tab used for the hinge lock is an integral homogeneous piece with the base, being preferably stamped or cut from the base.

In an alternate form of the invention the base is formed in two pieces connected together adjacent the line of fold, and the tab for the hinge lock is homogeneous with one of the pieces forming the base.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent as the description proceeds.

While preferred forms of the invention have been disclosed for purposes of illustration, it should be understood that various changes may be made in the disclosure without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as hereinafter set forth.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a valentine formed of expansible tissue paper and embodying the invention.

Figure 2 is a rear perspective of the valentine of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a perspective looking down at the top of the valentine shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 4 is a plan view of the valentine shown in Figures 1 and 2 in folded condition.

Figure 5 is a front elevation of a different type of valentine embodying modifications of the invention.

Figure 6 is a rear perspective of the valentine shown in Figure 5.

Figure 7 is a perspective of the rear side of a base member for a valentine incorporating a still further modified form of the invention.

Figure 8 is a front plan view of the base member shown in Figure 7.

In the prior art practice of making ornamental articles of expansible tissue, such as Christmas bells and valentines, it has been usual to first form the expansible tissue in the flat folded-up condition; that is, with the different plies of the expansible tissue in flat, parallel relation as in the folded valentine shown in Figure 4 of this application. The different layers or plies of the tissue paper were then riveted or stitched together along the side which forms the hinge when the expansible tissue is opened and closed; that is, the side corresponding to the right side of the article of Figure 4. After the tissue paper was thus riveted or stitched, a separate base member was then attached to each side of this tissue paper ornament and these two separate base members were not connected together along the hinge side of the tissue paper insert except by the tissue insert. This type of construction was used, both where the expansible tissue in an open position extended completely around the outer periphery of the article, as in the ordinary Christmas bell, and where the article when in expanded position consisted of a flat base with the expansible tissue projecting from one side only of the flat base. The present invention is concerned more particularly with this latter type of construction.

The ornamental structure illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 consists of a flat base member 10 formed from a single integral piece of cardboard or other suitable material, scored along the line 11 to form the hinge or line of fold. The particular article illustrated in these figures is a valentine in the form of a heart, but it will be understood that the invention is not limited to any particular shape of article. The tissue paper insert 12 is cut to the desired shape and the opposite faces of the tissue paper insert are pasted or otherwise suitably fastened to opposite sides of the base 10, as will be clear from an inspection of Figure 3.

With this construction the two halves of the base 10 are securely held together along the hinged line 11, and it is therefore not necessary to have the layers of the tissue paper insert stitched or stapled together. One result of this construction is that it is not necessary in all cases to have the tissue paper insert cover the entire base along the hinged

line 11. Thus, it will be seen from Figure 3, that the tissue paper insert is spread apart from the hinge line at the upper part of the heart but lies closely over the entire surface of the base at the point of the heart. In this way it is possible to effect a considerable saving in the size of the tissue paper insert without having any detrimental effect on the external appearance of the ornamental valentine when looked at from the front, as in Figure 1. The dotted line 13 of Figure 4 shows the right margin of the tissue paper insert and illustrates more clearly how this saving of material is brought about.

Another advantageous result of this construction is that when the valentine is in folded condition as in Figure 4, the folded side of the base, that is, along line 11, gives complete protection to the tissue paper insert and prevents injury or separation of the parts when they are packed for shipment or inserted in envelopes for individual mailing.

In order to hold the valentine in an expanded position a hinge lock is formed by attaching a tab to the base along the fold line 11. In the form of the invention shown in Figures 1 to 4, the foldable tab 14 is formed by slotting the base 10 outwardly from the hinge line 11 as at 15 and 16 in Figure 2 and connecting the outer end of tthe slot by a vertical cut 17, thereby cutting the tab 14 free from the base along three sides and leaving it attached to the base along the fold line 11. For co-operation with the tab 14 there is a strap 18 of paper or other suitable material which extends over the fold line 11 and tab 14 and has its opposite end secured to the base 10 at 19 and 20.

These parts operate in the following manner:

When the valentine is in folded position as in Figure 4, the tab 14 is folded over against the left half of the base 10, that is, the unslotted half, and the strap 18 extends completely around the tab 14 and the hinged edge 11. When the base 10 is flattened out so that its two halves lie in a single plane as in Figure 2, the tab 14 tends to rise due to the resiliency resulting from the fact that it is an integral part of the base, to a position in which the tab 14 extends upwardly at right angles to the plane of the base 10. If necessary, the person opening the valentine can assist the tab to this position. When the tab 14 reaches this position as illustrated in Figure 2, it frictionally engages the middle part of the strap 18. This frictional engagement holds the tab 14 in its upward position and, at the same time, holds taut the strap 18 and the latter, due to its attachment to the base at the points 19 and 20, holds the base in its extended position in which both halves lie in a single plane as in Figures 1 and 2.

In this construction, the hinged tab 14 is cut directly from the material of the base and tends automatically to rise to a locking position when the valentine or other ornamental member is open.

Additional features can be added to the valentine, such as the cord 21 for hanging and the arrow-parts 22 and 23 which are pivoted to the base member in such a manner that they can be folded inwardly for packing as will be clear from Figure 4.

Figures 5 and 6 illustrate a slightly different embodiment of the invention. In this case, base 10 is formed with two of the tabs 14 which are cut out from the stock of the base 10, the lower tab 14 being formed with a rearwardly extending foot 24 which serves to support the onramental member when it is standing on a table. These figures also illustrate further advantages of economy resulting from the present construction, since the single piece base 10 can be cut out and printed much more economically than can a two piece base as used in the old construction.

A modification of the invention is illustrated in Figures 7 and 8 in which the base member is formed of two pieces 26 and 27. Each of these pieces is originally formed with a projecting part 28 which laps over the fold line of the base. One of these projections 28 is left free and extends rearwardly to form the tab for the hinge lock, while the other projection 28 is pasted over the face of the other base member to hold the parts 26 and 27 into an integral hole.

The many advantageous results attained by the invention above set forth will be clear to one skilled in the art.

I claim:

1. A folding ornament comprising a base formed of two members integrally connected together along a fold line, expansible material secured to said base and serving to cause folding of said members, a tab homogeneous with part of the base, and a strap extending across the fold line and over the tab, one end of the strap being attached to one half of the base and the other end of the strap being attached to the other half of the base, the tab being adapted to engage the strap to hold the base members in unfolded position against the action of said expansible matter.

2. A folding ornament comprising a one-piece base member folded along a hinge line, expansible material secured to said base and serving to cause folding of said member, a tab partially cut from the base member and attached to the base member, a strap extending across the fold line and over the tab, one end of the strap being attached to the base on one side of the hinge line, and the other end of the strap being attached to the base on the other side of the hinge line the outer edge of said tab engaging the strap when the member is unfolded to hold the member un-

folded against the action of said expansible material.

3. A folding ornament comprising a one-piece base member folded along a hinge line, expansible material secured to said base and serving to cause folding of said member, a tab partially cut from the base member and attached to the base member along the hinge line, a strap extending across the fold line and over the tab, one end of the strap being attached to the base on one side of the hinge line, and the other end of the strap being attached to the base on the other side of the hinge line the outer edge of said tab engaging the strap when the member is unfolded to hold the member unfolded against the action of said expansible material.

4. A folding ornament comprising a base formed of two members integrally connected together along a fold line, expansible material secured to said base and serving to cause folding of said member, a tab homogeneous with part of the base, the lower edge of the tab being adapted to extend rearwardly from the bottom edge of the base to serve as a foot for the ornament, a strap extending across the fold line and over the tab, one end of the strap being attached to the base on one side of the hinge line, and the other end of the strap being attached to the base on the other side of the hinge line the outer edge of said tab engaging the strap when the member is unfolded to hold the member unfolded against the action of said expansible material.

5. A folding ornament comprising a one-piece base member folded along a hinge line, expansible material secured to said base and serving to cause folding of said member, a tab partially cut from the base member and attached to the base member, the lower edge of the tab being adapted to extend rearwardly from the bottom edge of the base to serve as a foot for the ornament, a strap extending across the fold line and over the tab, one end of the strap being attached to the base on one side of the hinge line, and the other end of the strap being attached to the base on the other side of the hinge line the outer edge of said tab engaging the strap when the member is unfolded to hold the member unfolded against the action of said expansible material.

6. A folding ornament comprising a base formed of two members integrally connected together along a fold line, an insert formed of expansible tissue serving to cause folding of said members, one face of the expansible insert being attached to the base on one side of the fold line, the other face of the expansible tissue being attached to the base on the other side of the fold line, a tab homogeneous with part of the base, a strap extending across the fold line and over the tab, one end of the strap being attached to the base on one side of the fold line and the other end of the strap being attached to the base on the other side of the fold line, the tab being adapted to engage the strap to hold the ornament in expanded position against the action of said expansible tissue.

7. A folding ornament comprising a one-piece base member folded along a hinge line, an insert formed of expansible tissue serving to cause folding of said member, one face of the expansible insert being attached to the base on one side of the fold line, the other face of the expansible tissue being attached to the base on the other side of the fold line, a tab homogeneous with part of the base, a strap extending across the fold line and over the tab, one end of the strap being attached to the base on one side of the fold line and the other end of the strap being attached to the base on the other side of the fold line, the tab being adapted to engage the strap to hold the ornament in expanded position against the action of said expansible tissue.

8. A folding ornament comprising a base formed of two members integrally connected together along a fold line, an insert formed of expansible tissue serving to cause folding of said members, one face of the expansible insert being attached to the base on one side of the fold line, the other face of the expansible tissue being attached to the base on the other side of the fold line, a tab partially cut from the base member and attached to the base member, a strap extending across the fold line and over the tab, one end of the strap being attached to the base on one side of the fold line and the other end of the strap being attached to the base on the other side of the fold line, the tab being adapted to engage the strap to hold the ornament in expanded position against the action of said expansible tissue.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

HENRY E. LUHRS.