Aug. 9, 1966 R. GROSS 3,265,072

PHOTO-ALBUM

Filed Dec. 30, 1964

Fig. 1

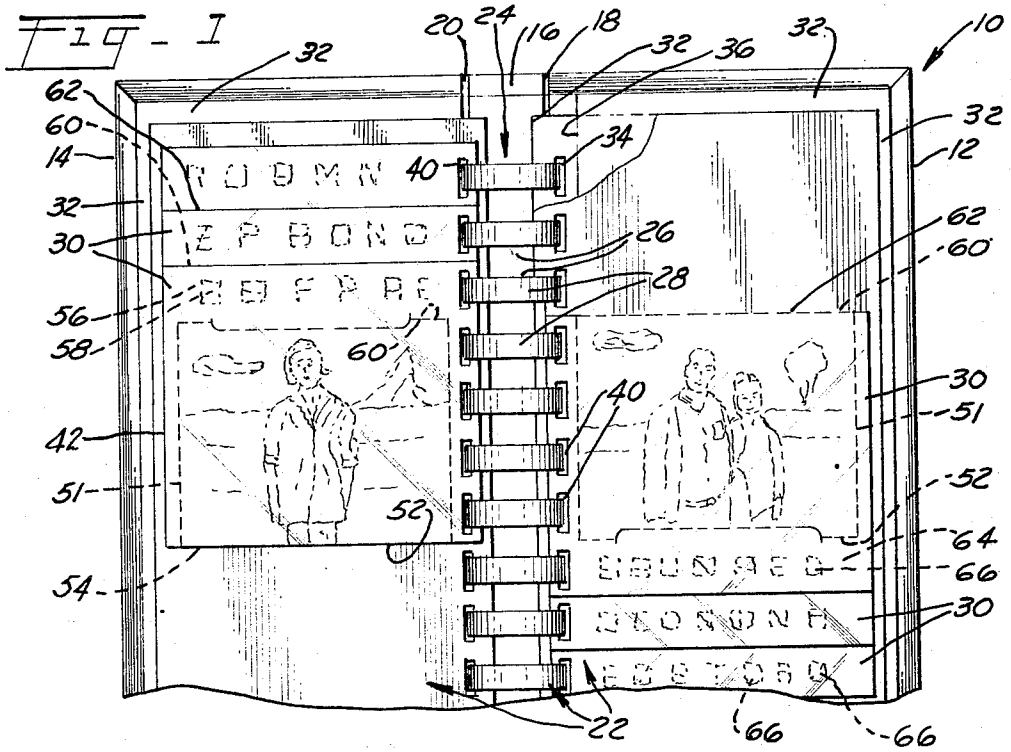


Fig. 2

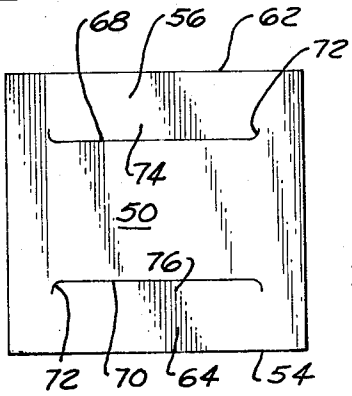


Fig. 3

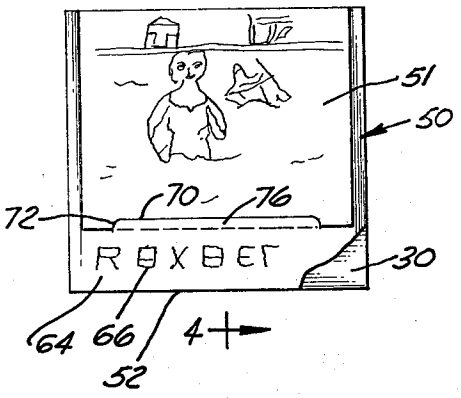
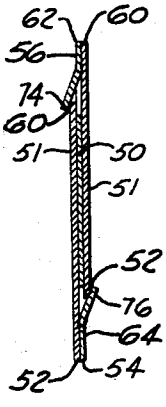


Fig. 4



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United States Patent Office 3,265,072 Patented August 9, 1966

3,265,072

PHOTO-ALBUM

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Filed Dec. 30, 1964, Ser. No. 422,287
1 Claim. (Cl. 129—20)

The present invention relates to photo-albums and more particularly to that type of album which is designed for use in the storage, care and display of small snapshot variety photographs. Such photographs currently prevail in standard sizes, among the more common sizes being 3¼ x 4¼, 3½ x 3½ and 4¼ x 4½. Albums are usually designed to accommodate photographs of one particular size and the present invention is applicable to a single-size photo album.

An extremely common type of photo-album employs between the two hinged covers thereof an up-and-down series of over-lapping flat envelopes which are formed of transparent plastic material, are hinged within the album along the fold line between the covers, and are open along their distal or outer side edges in order to provide entrance slots through which photographs may be inserted. When two photographs are thus inserted into a given envelope in back-to-back relationship, the photographs thereon are visible from opposite sides of the envelope through the transparent plastic material of which the envelope is formed. When the album is in its closed condition, the various envelopes overlie one another somewhat like the pages of a book. When the album is in its open condition with the covers spread apart, flipping or swinging of the envelopes from one side to the other provides access to the back-to-back photographs for viewing purposes.

The envelopes which are associated with and form parts of an album of the aforementioned type are invariably tailored to fit the particular photographs to be stored in the album. Thus, if, it is desired to identify a given photograph, it is necessary to write the necessary information directly upon the picture side of the photograph, preferably on the lower margin of the photograph. Such writing directly upon the photograph is undesirable, particularly if the photograph is subsequently to be reproduced, and it frequently is impractical, especially if the photograph presents a glossy surface which does not readily receive ink or pencil writing. Some photo-albums make provision for up-and-down offset staggering of adjacent transparent envelopes so that the writing on the bottom margin of a photograph in one envelope will not be covered by the photo in the next superjacent envelope, but when such staggering is resorted to, back-to-back storage of photographs in the same envelope precludes visibility of the marginal legending on one side of each pair of photographs. Stated otherwise, a group of envelopes thus staggered will present visible legending when the group is viewed from one side thereof but, when viewed from the other side, any legending which may have been applied to the lower margins of the various photographs will be concealed.

The present invention is concerned with a novel photo-album which makes provision for the display of photographs in back-to-back relationship in individual transparent envelopes, one for each pair of photographs, and which provides for up-and-down staggering of the envelopes in offset relationship, yet in which, despite such staggering, provision is made for identifying each photograph by suitable written legending, the legending being visible from both sides of a group or series of the staggered envelopes in the album.

The provision of such a photo-album constitutes the principal object of the invention and, in carrying out this object, it is contemplated that the various transparent envelopes be made slightly higher, in the vertical direction of the album, than the height of the photographs to be installed therein and that each pair of photographs be mounted upon a special holder card which subsequently is inserted within the associated envelope and substantially fills the same areawise. Each holder card is provided with means for maintaining the two photographs in their back-to-back relationship but with one photograph extending upwardly from the lower edge of the card and the other photograph extending downwardly from the upper edge of the card. The two photographs are thus slightly offset with respect to each other so that on one side of the pair of photographs (considered collectively) there is space on the card above the viewed photograph for an inscription or labeling while, on the other side of the pair, there is a space on the card below the viewed photograph for any desired inscription or labeling.

The provision of such a transparent envelope, in combination with such hold card, constitutes the essence of the present invention. The invention is directed specifically to the novel photograph-holder card, as well as the association of such a card in a photo-album assembly.

In the accompanying single sheet of drawings forming a part of this specification, one illustrative embodiment of a photo-album constructed according to the present invention is illustrated.

In this drawing:

FIG. 1 is a fragmentary plan view of a photo-album embodying the principles of the present invention and showing the album in its open condition;

FIG. 2 is a plan view of one of the photograph-holder cards which are employed in connection with the album of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a plan view similar to FIG. 2 but showing the holder card with a pair of photographs operatively installed thereon; and

FIG. 4 is a sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of FIG. 3.

Referring now to the drawings in detail and in particular to FIG. 1, a photo-album is designated in its entirety by the reference numeral **10** and includes right and left hand cover sections **12** and **14** and an interconnecting hinge section **16**. The hinge section **16** is connected to the cover sections **12** and **14** by fold lines **18** and **20**, respectively. The three sections **12**, **14** and **16** constitute a book-like holder or folder for retaining an inner articulated photograph-retaining assembly **22**.

The photograph-retaining assembly **22** involves in its general organization a longitudinally split, flexible hinge member **24** which is of tubular design and has slots **26** at closely spaced regions along its axial extent in order to provide a series of arcuate retaining fingers **28**. The latter normally curl into the tubular configuration of the hinge member but may selectively be pulled outwardly to expose the ends thereof for installation thereon a plurality of up-and-down series of photograph-receiving envelopes **30**, as well as a series of relatively stiff separator sheets **32**, the nature and function of which will be described presently.

The separator sheets **32** are provided with series of slots **34** along their proximate side margins, the arcuate fingers **28** of the flexible hinge member **24** projecting loosely through the slots and thus serving hingedly to support the separator sheets for sidewise swinging movement about the axis of said hinge member. One of the separator sheets **32** is inserted or tucked into a pocket **36** on the right hand cover section **12**, thus releasably maintaining the entire photograph-retaining assembly **22** in position within the folder.

Except for their departure in size from standard photograph-retaining envelopes, the previously mentioned enve-

lopes **30** are conventional in design and each envelope is hinged adjacent to its proximal or inner side edge for swinging movement about the axis of the hinge member **24**, the hinge connection consisting of a plurality of slots **40** which are arranged in series form, extend through both thicknesses of the envelope, and are adapted loosely to receive a corresponding number of the arcuate retaining fingers **28** of the hinge member **24**. As shown in FIG. 1, each envelope **30** is formed with five such slots and is supported on five of the fingers **28**. The distal or outer side edge end of each envelope is open as indicated at **42** to provide an entrance slot for a pair of back-to-back photographs. Preferably, each envelope is formed of any suitable transparent plastic material. The separator sheets **32** and the envelopes **30** are preferably installed upon the hinge member **24** in such a manner that the separator sheets alternate with a series or group of the envelopes and the envelopes of each group are arranged in overlapping relationship so that when a group or portion of a group is disposed above the right hand cover section **12**, successive envelopes underhang the lower edges of the next adjacent overlying envelopes. Similarly, when a group or portion of a group of envelopes is disposed above the left hand cover section **14**, successive envelopes underhang the upper edges of the next adjacent overlying envelopes.

The arrangement of the aforementioned folder and the separator sheets **32**, as well as of the overlapping envelopes **30** thus far described is more or less conventional and no claim is made herein to any novelty associated with the same, the novelty of the present invention consisting rather in the provision of a novel photograph holder card for each envelope. Each holder card is removably receivable in its associated envelope and serves to maintain a pair of photographs in back-to-back relationship so that one photograph is visible through the envelope when the latter overlies the right hand cover section **12** and the other photograph is visible through the envelope when the latter overlies the left hand cover section **14**. Moreover, each holder card is so designed that, regardless of which cover section the associated envelope overlies, a space on the holder card remains visible through the envelope and may be employed, if desired, for the application thereto of identifying writing or legending.

One of the novel photograph holder cards is illustrated in detail in FIGS. 2, 3 and 4 and is designated in its entirety by the reference numeral **50**. Such holder card is in the form of a rectangular sheet of cardboard or the like, the height of which is slightly less than the height of the associated envelope **30** in order that the card may be readily inserted into said associated envelope and when in place will fill the envelope interior. The height of the holder card **50** is in excess of the height of each photograph which is to be installed on the card. While various dimensions for the holder card are contemplated, preferably the height of the card is on the order of one-half inch in excess of the height of a photograph **51** so that when the lower edge **52** of the photograph is aligned with the lower edge **54** of the holder card, a space **56** of sufficient height and area for the application of written material **58** thereto will be provided above the photograph. Similarly, when the upper edge **60** of a photograph **51** is aligned with the upper edge **62** of the holder card, a space **64** will be provided below the photograph for application of written material **66** thereto.

Each holder card **50** is reversible either from top to bottom or from side-to-side and is adapted to receive thereon two of the photographs **51**, the photographs being disposed in back-to-back relationship with the body portion of the cardboard holder card sandwiched therebetween. To retain the two associated photographs, each holder card is provided with two generally horizontally extending slits which, in the position of the holder shown in FIG. 2, include an upper slit **68** and a lower slit **70**. The slits are straight except for the provision of short laterally turned end portion **72** which, in combination with the straight portions of the slits, provide an upper downwardly extending narrow retaining flap **74** and a lower upwardly extending narrow retaining flap **76**. The flaps **74** and **76** are adapted to be displaced laterally in either direction out of the plane of the holder card **50** for the purpose of receiving thereunder the upper or the lower edge, as the case may be, of a photograph **51**. The slits **68** and **70** are so spaced from the edges **62** and **54**, respectively, of the holder card that when the upper edge **60** of a photograph is inserted beneath the flap **68**, the lower edge of the photograph will substantially coincide with the lower edge **54** of the holder card and the photograph will overlie and conceal the lower flap **76**. Similarly, when the lower edge **52** of a photograph is inserted beneath the flap **76**, the upper edge **60** of the photograph will substantially coincide with the upper edge **62** of the holder card with the photograph overlying and concealing the upper flap **74**. Such a disposition of two photographs **51** is illustrated in FIGS. 3 and 4 and is the intended disposition of photographs on the holder card **50** according to the present invention.

When two photographs **51** are disposed on the holder card in the manner described above and as shown in FIGS. 3 and 4, the two photographs will be disposed in back-to-back relationship with the body portion of the holder card sandwiched between the photographs. On one side of the card, the space **56** above the adjacent photograph is exposed for writing purposes while, on the other side of the card, the space **64** beneath the photograph is exposed for writing purposes.

As shown in FIG. 1, an assembly of one holder **50** and two photographs **51** in the relationship of FIGS. 3 and 4 is adapted to be inserted into each envelope **30** and, when a series of such assemblies has been effected, such envelopes as may be caused to overlie the cover section **14** will present the writing spaces **56** to view in a vertical tier as shown at the left hand side of FIG. 1. Similarly, such envelopes as may be caused to overlie the cover section **12** will present the writing spaces **64** in a vertical tier as shown at the right hand side of this view. The photographs **51** are thus conveniently catalogued by respective visible indicia or legending **58** or **66**, depending upon which side of the envelopes are facing the viewer.

In using the photo-album **10**, any given photograph may be singled out for viewing and exposed to view by the simple expedient of selecting the associated indicia or legending and then swinging such photograph-containing envelopes as may overlie the associated envelope to an out-of-the-way position through an angle of 180°, thus transferring such envelopes to the opposite side of the open photo-album. Closure of the photo-album will, of course, automatically position all of the envelopes in overlapping relationship between the two cover sections **12** and **14**. If desired, legending may be applied to the separator sheets **32** for identification and selection of any particular group of envelopes.

The invention is not to be limited to the exact arrangement of parts shown in the accompanying drawing or described in this specification as various changes in the details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Therefore, only insofar as the invention has particularly been pointed out in the accompanying claim is the same to be limited.

Having thus described the invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

In a photo-album of the character described, in combination, a pair of cover sections and an interconnecting hinge section, a hinge member positioned adjacent to said hinge section, a series of transparent rectangular envelopes having their proximate side edges carried by said hinge section and having respective open edges, other than their proximate side edges, adapted for recep-

tion therethrough of selected pairs of back-to-back photographs, and a unitary normally flat unfolded rectangular photograph holder card disposed in each envelope, said holder card being slitted to provide two hinged photograph-retaining flaps effective on opposite sides of the holder card respectively to receive thereunder an edge of a photograph, one of said flaps being disposed a slight distance inwardly from the upper edge of the holder card and projecting downwardly therefrom and the other flap being disposed a slight distance inwardly from the lower edge of the holder card and projecting upwardly therefrom, the space immediately above said one downwardly projecting flap on one side of the holder card presenting a legend-receiving area and the space immediately above said other flap on the other upwardly projecting side of the holder card similarly presenting a legend-receiving area, adjacent envelopes being disposed in

slightly overlapping relationship in the vertical direction of the card holder so that when the photo-album is in its open condition with certain envelopes overlying one of the cover sections and with certain other envelopes overlying the other cover section, all of the legend-receiving areas on the sides of the photograph holders remote from the adjacent cover sections will be exposed to view.

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JEROME SCHNALL, *Primary Examiner.*