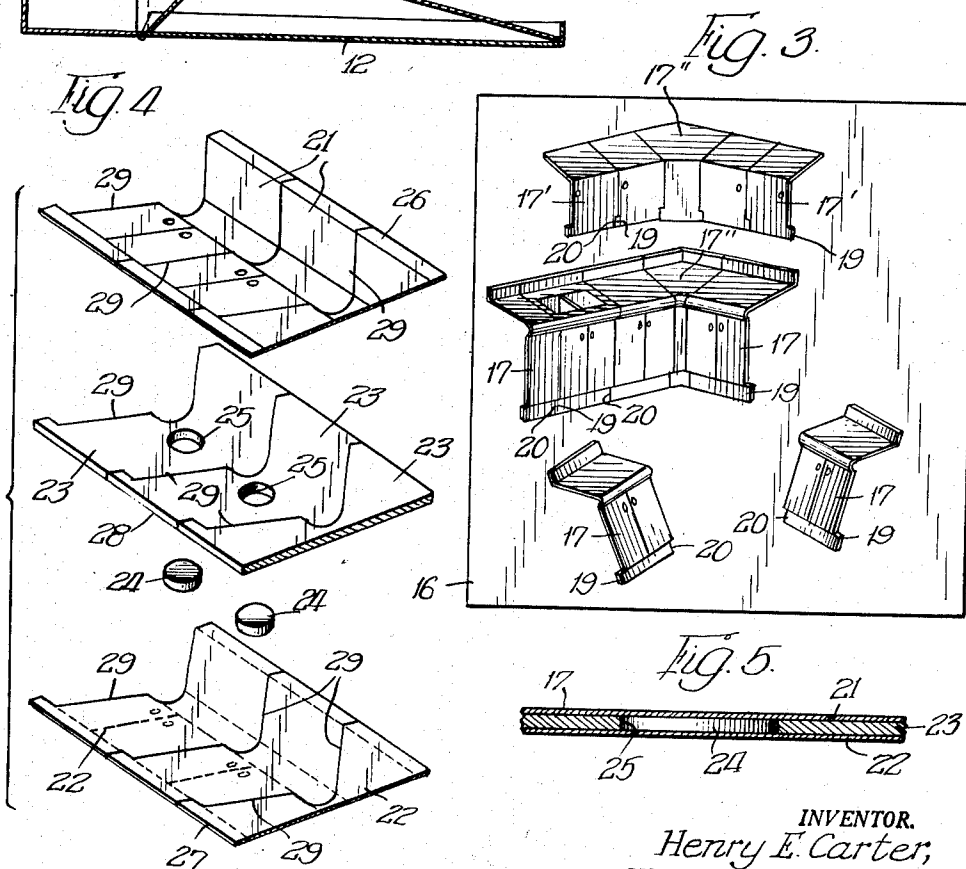
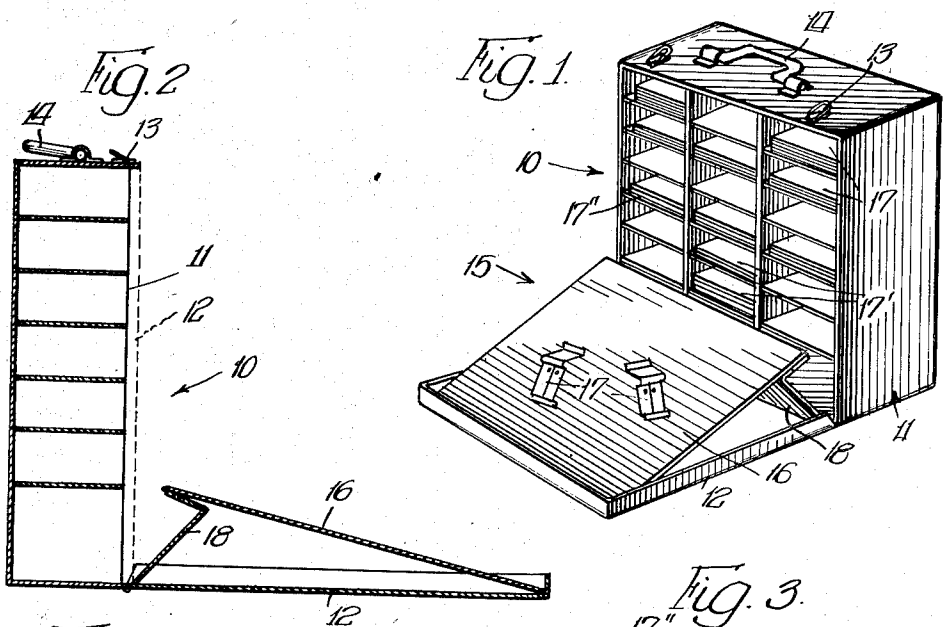


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DISPLAY LAYOUT UNIT
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DISPLAY LAYOUT UNIT

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6 Claims. (Cl. 35-53)

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The present invention pertains to an improved kit or unit adapted to assist in the making of pictorial layouts of various different arrangements of stationary equipment. It provides a readily manipulated device calling for the assembly of certain small scale models of, for example, items of kitchen cabinetwork, with like models of equipment of a sort commonly associated with such cabinetwork, such as refrigerators, dishwashers, ranges and the like, thereby to enable a visualization of the effect of various alternative arrangements or combinations of such equipment in a proposed installation.

In the merchandising of stationary interior equipment, domestic or otherwise, it is desirable to afford to the prospective purchaser some means for judging for himself, and in advance of purchase, the appearance of items of stationary interior equipment of the sort referred to above in their intended ultimate relation to one another in a domestic installation. The same is true of commercial installations of office equipment, such as filing cabinets, desks and the like. The only type of pre-sale demonstration available, to my knowledge, involves the submitting of photographs, cuts, etc. of each and every arrangement. It is obviously preferable to employ a method of presentation which permits various relative arrangements of the items of equipment, with reference to one another, to be selectively made by the prospective purchaser or salesman, using similar preformed and printed pieces or model elements of tangible character, each representing one of the various articles of equipment. In the use of a collection of such individual model pieces it is also desirable to provide some means for retaining the same in a desired, close and preferably interfitted edge-to-edge relationship, resistant to accidental displacement, yet which permits ready shifting of the pieces into and out of desired position with reference to one another. The present invention affords a simple, very inexpensive device or unit for the foregoing purposes which is attractive both to the eye and to the imagination.

It is an object of the invention to provide an improved display layout unit of the type referred to employing a plurality of prepared flat pieces which are specially shaped on their marginal edges for interfitting juxtaposition thereof in jigsaw fashion, each of which pieces is imprinted to represent a given item or type of equipment, fixture or cabinetwork, whereby a number of such different pieces, in their selectively assembled relationship, affords a pictorial representation or visualization of any one of many different combinations of such equipment, suited for different installations.

Yet another and more specific object of the invention is to provide a display layout unit in which the prepared pieces are adapted to be supported in a desired, ultimate, interfitted relationship upon an attractive backing sheet or plate, which sheet or plate is of a smooth character enabling ready sliding of the pieces into and out of the desired relationship, and in which said pieces and plate are magnetically attractive for the purpose of holding the former in the desired interfitted relation.

A still further object is to provide a unit of the sort referred to in which the magnetic attraction of the pieces and plate is preferably accomplished by the association with each piece of a suitable, flat, disk-like magnet element, internally laminated in the sheet-like construction of the piece and attractive to a plate of magnetic material.

It is a still further specific object of the invention to provide a layout unit of the type referred to above, which includes a plurality of multi-ply pieces which are specially shaped for juxtaposed, interfitted or interlocked edge-to-edge engagement with one another, in which each of said pieces has an element of magnetic material laminated in the multi-ply construction thereof and in which the element is introduced internally of the piece in a novel manner during the lamination of the constituent plies thereof.

It is a further object of the invention to provide an improved method for fabricating the laminated magnetic pieces referred to above.

The foregoing statements are indicative in a general way of the nature of the invention, but other and more specific objects will be apparent to those skilled in the art upon a full understanding of the construction and operation of the device.

One embodiment of the invention is presented herein for the purpose of illustration, but it will be appreciated that the invention is susceptible of incorporation in other modified forms coming equally within the scope of the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view illustrating the unit of the present invention, together with a combined carrying case and filing cabinet with which the unit is associated in an actual commercial adaptation thereof;

Fig. 2 is a view in vertical cross section through the installation of Fig. 1, further illustrating the size and positional relationship of various parts thereof;

Fig. 3 is a top plan view illustrating the backing plate of the unit and various of the interfitted pieces which are adapted to be manipulated on

said plate in the use of the unit, this view showing a typical arrangement of certain pieces to depict a desired tentative layout of kitchen cabinet network and equipment;

Fig. 4 is a view in perspective, and in magnified scale as compared to Figs. 1, 2 and 3, illustrating the component parts of the laminated pieces which go to make up the unit, also indicating the improved method of fabrication of said pieces; and

Fig. 5 is a view in vertical cross section illustrating further the laminated construction of the respective magnetic pieces.

In the drawings, the reference numeral 10 in general designates a portable display layout kit according to the invention, including a compartmentalized filing or storage cabinet 11 having a side closure panel 12 appropriately hinged to one side of the bottom thereof. Suitable snap catches 13 hold the closure in closed relation to the cabinet section 11, in the manner of an ordinary sample case, and a handle 14 enables the kit to be lifted and transported readily.

The reference numeral 15 designates the improved display layout unit of the invention, consisting generally of a flat rectangular backing plate 16 of magnetic ferrous metal and a plurality of specially shaped, selectively interfittable, magnetically charged pieces 17 of laminated fibrous sheet construction, as will be described. The relationship is reversible with regard to which of the parts, pieces or plate is magnetically charged, under the broadest view of the invention.

The pieces 17 are provided, preferably on both exposed, upper and lower surfaces thereof, with representations of different well known articles of fixed interior equipment. Although in the illustrated embodiment of the invention the pieces represent articles of kitchen equipment, such as various types of floor and wall cabinet-work, different types or sizes of ranges, sinks of different type or manufacture, refrigerators, dishwashing machines, deep freeze cabinets, etc., the invention may be employed in like manner for layout work involving other than a domestic installation. They are supplied in a considerable number and in sufficient variety to afford a relatively wide selection to the user, with the view of enabling him to assemble a layout of the different pieces in a jigsaw fashion to visualize several different arrangements of the equipment. When not in use these pieces are filed in the cabinet section 11 of the kit, the compartments of which may be specially identified by tabs for the reception of the various sorts of individual pieces 17, 17' and 17''. The last two are different shapes employed, as later described.

The backing plate 16 may be provided with a collapsible supporting leg or brace 18 hinged thereto at its horizontal margin. This brace is adapted to be disposed in the operative position illustrated in Fig. 2 to support the plate 16 at a convenient, tilted angle within the rim of the closure section 12, or to be collapsed and housed within the section 12 when the latter is closed relative to the cabinet section 11. However, these bracing provisions are not an essential of the invention and may be omitted.

Referring to Fig. 3 of the drawings, the plate 16 is of rectangular outline, being of any desired size, say 2' x 2½' in a typical installation. As stated, it is of magnetic material, preferably a relatively light gauge of steel. It is preferably provided with an attractive painted or lacquered

top surface. This is shown as being in a plain finish or color, although ornamental decoration thereof is in order, if desired.

The magnetic pieces 17, 17' are formed of laminated paperboard stock and are specially shaped at two opposed edges for interfitting, close edge-to-edge juxtaposed engagement with one another. For purposes of illustration, I have indicated the provision of a laterally extending ear 19 at one corner of each piece and a similarly shaped recess 20 at the corresponding opposite ear. It should be understood that pieces are imprinted on both sides thereof and may be employed interchangeably regardless of which side faces up, as illustrated in Fig. 4. A specially shaped corner or key piece, designated 17'', is employed to enable the respective reversible pieces 17, 17' to be arranged in combination to simulate the appearance of both of two adjoining sides of a room. All pieces 17, 17' and 17'' are alike structurally.

As illustrated in Fig. 5, the pieces 17 are of multiple thickness, laminated construction, comprising top and bottom cover or finish sheets 21, 22, an interposed filter sheet 23 of relatively stiff paperboard stock, and a disk-like permanent magnet element 24 which is received in a correspondingly shaped, punched out hole 25 in the filler 23, it being understood that one of these elements is associated with each of the pieces 17. Thus in completed form the pieces may be dropped on the metal plate 16 or shifted to any position thereon and will retain that position, being resistant to normal accidental displacement. As pointed out above, sheets 21, 22 are appropriately printed or decorated in simulation of the different types of equipment or cabinet-work which it is desired to depict in the assembled relation.

A typical arrangement of kitchen equipment is illustrated in Fig. 3, arrived at by the selection and interfitting of the shaped pieces. This representation of the ultimate appearance of one possible kitchen arrangement may obviously be altered in accordance with the needs or taste of the prospective purchaser by selecting and arranging other pieces 17 from the store housed in the cabinet section 11 of the kit 10. When fitted in place on backing plate 16, the magnetic attraction between the pieces and plate holds the former against displacement from the selected relationship. As also indicated in Fig. 3, the various pieces may be of different sizes, reflecting the difference in size of the articles shown thereon, so long as the keying or interfitting elements 19 and 20 are of like size and shape to permit the desired and optional juxtaposition of any of the pieces.

The invention also contemplates an improved method for manufacturing interfittable magnetized pieces of the above character, which method is illustrated in Fig. 4. Two strips 26, 27 of a suitable grade of paper stock, previously imprinted on opposite sides thereof, are fed longitudinally and in vertical alignment with one another. A third intervening strip 28 of flexible paperboard stock is fed concurrently with and parallel to the strips 26, 27. The paperboard strip 28 is brought into contact with and adhesively secured to the lowermost paper strip 27, after which the preshaped, premagnetized disks 24 are successively dropped into the preformed circular holes 25 in the intermediate strip 28. The uppermost printed strip 26 is then adhesively laminated onto the strip 28 and the thus built-up triple-ply web is fed through

a cutter by which it is cut at 29 into the individual pieces 17 having the specially shaped, opposed, interfitting edges previously described. A number of elongated strips may be produced in this fashion and separated from one another by longitudinally slitting along parallel lines. The pieces 17 are individually cut off into lengths as determined by the particular representation appearing thereon.

It is evident that by the use of the above described kit many different layouts of kitchen or office equipment, domestic or commercial furniture and/or equipment arrangements, etc., are feasible. This type of visual demonstration is easily manipulated and undoubtedly serves to promote sales of manufactured goods or services.

It should be noted that the representations of equipment on the various pieces 17, 17', 17'' are isometric views. Accordingly the pieces may be similarly imprinted on both sides, as illustrated particularly by the two individual loose pieces appearing in Fig. 3, and may be inter-fitted, either side up, with other pieces in the combined arrangement (also shown in Fig. 3) to simulate the appearance of equipment extending along any or all four of the adjoining sides of a room or space. Each piece is usable interchangeably as to its relationship to other pieces in this regard.

I claim:

1. A display layout device comprising a plate-like backing member and a set of flat, sheet-like model pieces selectively positionable flatwise upon said member, said pieces having on a surface thereof an isometric, three-dimensional representation of an object whose outline is partially defined by and coincides with a pair of opposed side edges of the piece, said edges being of identical, non-rectilinear outline and having like orientation relative to the piece, so that corresponding increments of their respective lengths are parallel, one edge of a given piece being snugly interfittable with the other edge of other pieces when selectively positioned on said backing member to afford a continuous, composite representation of a number of different objects disposed in any one of several optional side-by-side arrangements.

2. A display layout device comprising a plate-like backing member and a set of flat, sheet-like model pieces selectively and reversibly positionable flatwise upon said member, said pieces having on each of the opposite surfaces thereof an isometric, three-dimensional representation of an object whose outline is partially defined by and coincides with a pair of opposed side edges of the piece, said edges being of identical, non-rectilinear outline and having like orientation relative to the piece, so that corresponding increments of their respective lengths are parallel, one edge of a given piece being snugly interfittable with the other edge of other pieces when selectively positioned on said backing member to afford a continuous, composite representation of a number of different objects disposed in any one of several optional side-by-side arrangements.

3. A display layout device comprising a set of flat, sheet-like model pieces, said pieces having on a surface thereof an isometric, three-dimensional representation of an object whose outline is partially defined by and coincides with a pair of opposed side edges of the piece, said edges being of identical, non-rectilinear outline and having like orientation relative to the piece,

so that corresponding increments of their respective lengths are parallel, one edge of a given piece being snugly interfittable with the other edge of other pieces to afford a continuous, composite representation of a number of different objects disposed in any one of several optional side-by-side arrangements.

4. A display layout device comprising a set of flat, sheet-like model pieces, said pieces having on each of the opposite surfaces thereof an isometric, three-dimensional representation of an object whose outline is partially defined by and coincides with a pair of opposed side edges of the piece, said edges being of identical, non-rectilinear outline and having like orientation relative to the piece, so that corresponding increments of their respective lengths are parallel, one edge of a given piece being snugly interfittable with the other edge of other pieces to afford a continuous, composite representation of a number of different objects disposed in any one of several optional side-by-side arrangements, including arrangements produced by reversing surfaces of one or more pieces.

5. A model piece for a display layout device, adapted to be slightly associated in side-by-side, interfitted relation with one or more generally similar model pieces to afford a continuous, composite representation of a number of different objects disposed in one of several optional side-by-side arrangements, said piece comprising a flat, sheet-like member having on a surface thereof an isometric, three-dimensional representation of an object whose outline is partially defined by and coincides with a pair of opposed side edges of said member, said edges being of identical, non-rectilinear outline and having like orientation relative to the member, so that corresponding increments of their respective lengths are parallel, whereby one edge of said piece is snugly interfittable with the other edge of another piece.

6. A model piece for a display layout device, adapted to be slightly associated in side-by-side, interfitted relation with one or more generally similar model pieces to afford a continuous, composite representation of a number of different objects disposed in one of several optional side-by-side arrangements, said piece comprising a flat, sheet-like member having on each of the opposite surfaces thereof an isometric, three-dimensional representation of an object whose outline is partially defined by and coincides with a pair of opposed side edges of said member, said edges being of identical, non-rectilinear outline and having like orientation relative to the member, so that corresponding increments of their respective lengths are parallel, whereby one edge of said piece is snugly interfittable with the other edge of another piece, said piece being positionable on a supporting surface with either of said surfaces exposed, thereby to increase the variety of composite representations available when associated with other pieces.

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