FIG. 5

FIG. 6

FIG. 7
This invention relates to cartons and more particularly, to a carton which may be converted into a display case for displaying a composite scene in three dimensional fashion.

Although miniature models developed from model kits and other realistic miniatures are packaged in cartons and the like for sale to the public, little attention has been paid to the effective display of said miniatures after removal from the carton.

It is therefore amongst the primary objects of the present invention to provide a carton of the above character which may be converted into an attractive display case for the miniatures, and the like, for sale to the public, wherein the miniatures are effectively displayed.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a carton which may be assembled into a realistic display case for displaying the miniatures originally contained by it in a composite meaningful scene having realistic qualities.

Briefly stated, the carton of the present invention comprises a carton having a transparent cover hingedly connected thereto, a sheet having a scenic backdrop formed thereon removably positioned within the carton, said scenic sheet adapted to be curvilinearly fitted between side walls of said carton to provide a curved backdrop for said scenic miniatures which are ultimately positioned on an endwall to complete the scene.

A fuller understanding of the invention and the manner in which its objectives and advantages may be realized will become apparent from the following detailed description thereof taken in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an embodiment of the convertible packing case of the present invention, sections of an end wall and a side wall being broken away to illustrate certain internal features of the case.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the case of Fig. 1 in one of the early stages of its conversion into a display case.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a completely converted packing case displaying the realistic miniatures.

Fig. 4 is another perspective view of a packing case in accordance with the present invention.

Fig. 5 is a front view of a completely assembled display case complete with models, in accordance with the present invention.

Fig. 6 is a sectional view taken along lines 6–6 of Fig. 5 in the direction of the arrows; and

Fig. 7 is a sectional view taken along line 7–7 of Fig. 5 in the direction of the arrows.

Referring now to the drawing, a rectangulally shaped carton designated generally by numeral 10 is shown embodying the features which will facilitate its conversion into the display case of the present invention. As is evident from the drawings, when the carton is adjusted for display purposes, it is positioned on end, its bottom wall becoming the back wall of the display case.

The carton is provided with a transparent cover 12 hingedly connected to end wall 14 thereof to permit ready access to the interior of the carton without breaking or otherwise damaging the carton. The transparent cover which consists of a sheet of transparent material 40 enclosed by a frame 42 serves the dual purpose of permitting the contents of the carton to be viewed without the disturbance or handling of same and providing a protective partition against dust and the like when the carton is converted into a display case.

Intersecting interior walls 16 and 18 divide the carton, in this particular embodiment, into four sections wherein the models or miniatures may be placed for shipment and sale. Walls 16 and 18 are notched at 20 and 22 to permit the aforementioned intersection. Although walls 16 and 18 are of equal overall length, they are not utilized as such when dividing the carton, the difference between the length and the width of the carton necessitating the folding of portion 24 of wall 16 as is shown in Fig. 1.

The carton is provided with a false bottom 26 positioned against its bottom wall 28, said bottom wall 26 having scenic markings formed thereon and ultimately serving as the picturesque backdrop for the display case. A smaller sheet 30 composed of foil or other similar reflective material, is positioned between false bottom 26 and bottom wall 28 for reasons hereinafter appearing. (Sheet 30 is not visible in Fig. 1.)

Removable end piece 32 having markings 34 printed thereon, indicating a preconceived plan of display for the miniatures, is maintained against end wall 36 by interior wall 16. End piece 32 and end wall 36 define a space therebetween for the insertion of a lip 38 depending from cover 12 to maintain said cover in a normally closed position.

It is preferred that the carton be composed of cardboard, plastic or other similar flexible material having some resiliency. Transparent members may be of a plastic composition and may have appropriate items of interest printed directly thereon to increase the scenic effect of the display and heighten the illusion of depth.

To convert the carton into a display case in accordance with the present invention, interior walls 16 and 18, false bottom 26, reflective sheet 30 and end piece 32 are removed from the carton. Members 16 and 18, the upper ends of which are curved for reasons hereinafter appearing, are placed against side walls 44 and 46 of the carton as is shown in Fig. 2. Scenic backdrop 26 (the false bottom) is curvilinearly fitted between side walls 44 and 46, the curvature of this member imparting a feeling of depth to the background as may be seen in Fig. 3. End piece 32 having rounded corners in accordance with the curve of scenic backdrop 26 is again positioned against end wall 36 and the models or miniatures are placed thereon in accordance with markings 34. Frame 42 of cover 12 helps in maintaining member 26 in position when it is force fitted between the aforementioned side walls.

The reflective sheet 30 positioned on the curved ends of members 16 and 18 assumes the shape of its supporting structure. An opening 54 is provided in the reflective sheet for the insertion of bulb 50. In the embodiment shown in Figs. 5–7, the bulb is operated by storage batteries within casing 58. A switching mechanism 52 controls the operation of the light.

As may be seen in Fig. 4, slots 56 have been provided in the back wall of the display case (bottom wall of the carton) so that the display case may be suspended or hung from a wall.

It may thus be seen that by virtue of the present
invention, a carton has been provided which may be readily and effectively converted into an attractive display case for miniatures or models originally contained in the carton. Moreover, by virtue of the present invention, a carton has been provided which can be readily converted into a realistic, three dimensional display case.

Although the invention has been described in detail with respect to essentially one preferred embodiment thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art, after reading this specification, that various changes and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention and the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

I claim:

1. A packing carton assemblable into a display case for displaying in three dimensional fashion scenic miniatures packed within the carton comprising a carton having a transparent cover hingedly connected thereto, a sheet having a scenic backdrop formed thereon removably positioned within the carton, said scenic sheet adapted to be curvilinearly fitted between side walls of said carton to provide a curved backdrop for said scenic miniatures which are ultimately positioned on an end wall to complete the scene, removable interior walls dividing said carton into a plurality of sections wherein the scenic miniatures are originally packed, a reflector for intensifying the illumination of the display packaged within said carton, said walls being adapted to be torn down and repositioned to support the reflector above the scene.

2. The carton according to claim 1 wherein the reflector supporting ends of said walls are curved to support a curved reflector above the scene.

3. The carton according to claim 1 wherein the interior walls intersect to divide the carton into at least four sections.

4. The carton according to claim 3 wherein the interior walls are of equal overall length and are foldable to adjust for the difference between the length and width of the carton.

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