June 9, 1925. 1,541,369

H. H. MARTIN

TOY FENCE

Filed March 27, 1923

Fig. 1.

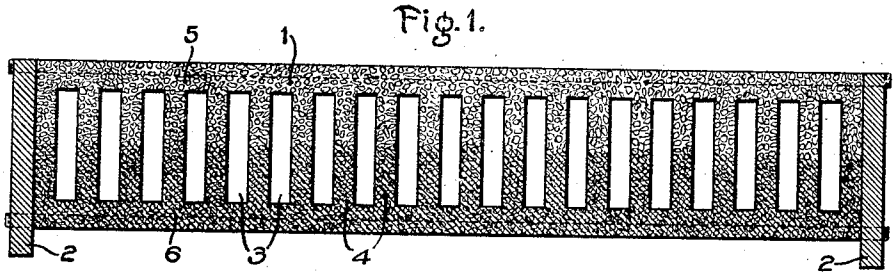


Fig. 2.

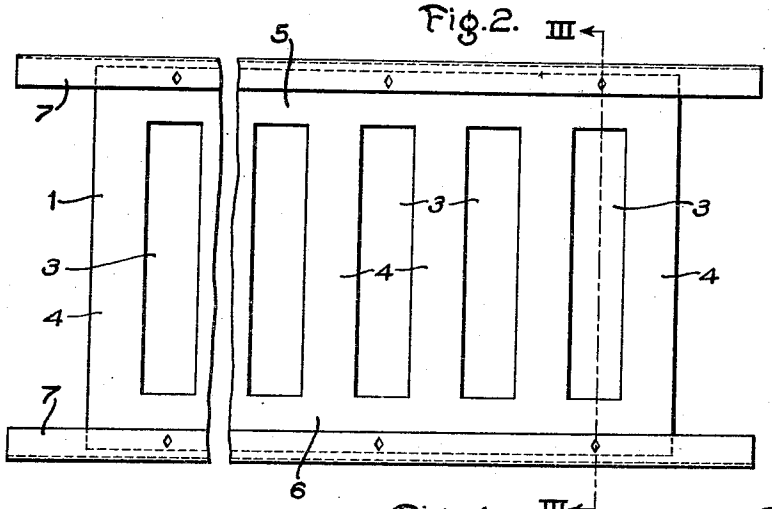


Fig. 3.

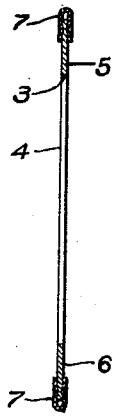


Fig. 4.

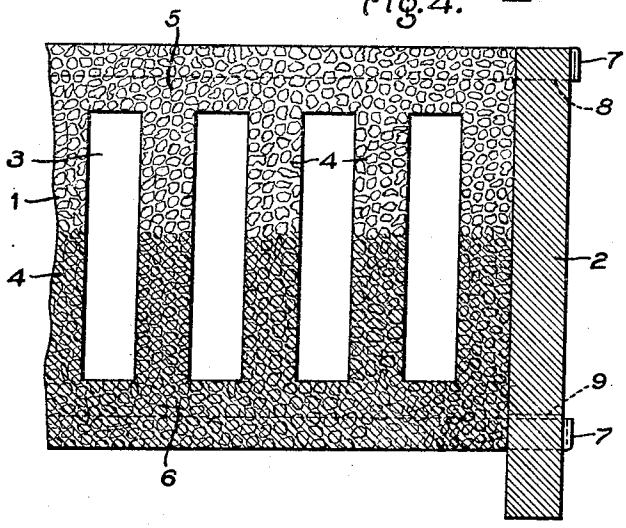
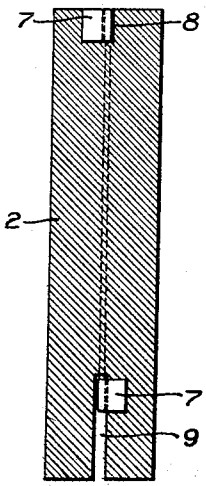


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARRY H. MARTIN, OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR TO THE LIBERTY NOVELTY COMPANY, A COMMON LAW TRUST OF PENNSYLVANIA.

TOY FENCE.

Application filed March 27, 1923. Serial No. 627,962.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HARRY H. MARTIN, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Pittsburgh, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Toy Fences, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to toy fences and particularly to toy fences for use in connection with Christmas trees and for similar uses.

My invention has for one of its objects to provide a miniature fence that may be manufactured by a substantially continuous process.

A second object of my invention is to provide a fence of few and simple parts of inexpensive materials and that may consist of independent units.

In the accompanying drawing—

Figure 1 is a side view in elevation of a unit or panel of a fence embodying my invention;

Fig. 2 is a similar view of the body portion;

Fig. 3 is a view, in transverse section, on line III—III of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a side elevational view of a portion of a panel illustrating the decorative scheme; and

Fig. 5 is an end view of the panel.

A fence constructed in accordance with my invention is preferably made in sections or panels that will remain in upright positions independently of each other. As shown in Fig. 1, a section or panel comprises a body portion 1 of rectangular shape and posts 2 at each end thereof to maintain it in an upright position.

Referring to Figs. 2 and 3, the body portion 1, which may be of strawboard, cardboard or other suitable sheet material, is rectangular in shape and is provided with a plurality of transverse perforations 3 to secure an appearance of upright posts 4, between upper and lower rails 5 and 6, respectively. The side edges are provided with metal reinforcing strips 7 that are clamped thereon. The strips 7 extend beyond the ends of the sheet material.

As best shown in Figs. 4 and 5, the posts 2 are provided with slits 8 and 9, at their tops and the bottoms, respectively, that are adapted to receive the projecting portions of the strips 7. When the posts are in position at the ends of the body portion 1, the extreme projecting portions of the strips 7 are bent at right angles in opposite directions to firmly clamp the posts against the ends of the body portion 1 and thereby securely retain the parts in assembled position. The bases of the posts are sufficiently wide to insure a reasonable degree of stability.

In the manufacture of the fence, the cardboard, or other sheet material, is shaped and perforated by a suitable die and fed into a machine for attaching the reinforcing strips 7, the opposite sides of the latter being pressed together to clamp the body portion. At least one of the sides of each strip is indented at suitable intervals to cause it to more securely grip the cardboard. The strips 7 are then cut off in suitable lengths to provide for attaching the posts.

The posts are moved into position by threading the strips 7 into the corresponding slits 8 and 9 until the posts engage the cardboard. The bending of the ends of the strips 7 in opposite directions to clamp the posts insures a rigid structure.

The assembled fence sections are then painted in suitable colors, such, for example, as white, for the upper portion and green for the lower portion. The posts, which are of wood, are preferably stained green before assembling. The structure is then sprinkled with flakes of crystalline material which adhere to the wet paint.

The resulting structure has a pleasing and attractive appearance, the lower portion being adapted to harmonize with the moss or other green covering of the base of a Christmas tree, while the upper portion has the appearance of being snow covered. The crystal flakes resemble snow crystals in that they sparkle at any angle to the observer.

I claim as my invention:—

1. A fence comprising a body portion of flexible material, reinforcing members clamped on the edges thereof, and post members having slots therein and secured to said reinforcing members by projecting portions of the latter which extend through said slots and are bent to engage said posts.

2. A fence comprising a body portion of flexible sheet material, reinforcing members on the upper and the lower edges thereof having extending portions, a post member at each end of the body portion, said posts having portions to be engaged by said ex-

tending portions when the latter are bent out of alinement with said body portion and thereby secured to the reinforcing members.

3. A fence panel comprising a body portion of flexible material, metal reinforcing members crimped on the upper and the lower edges thereof, and post members at each end of the body portion and retained thereagainst by said reinforcing members.

4. A fence panel comprising a body portion of fibrous sheet material, post members at each end of said body portion and members of metal secured to said body portion by clamping edges thereof and engaging said post members.

5. In a fence, a body portion of cardboard of substantially rectangular shape, having projecting metal reinforcing members and post members with recesses for receiving said projecting members, the latter being bent to engage said posts which are of sufficient dimensions to maintain said body portion in an upright position.

6. A fence panel comprising a body portion of cardboard having perforations therein, metal reinforcing strips on the longitudinal edges of the body portion and extending beyond the ends thereof, and a post member at each end of the body portion and provided with slits through which project the extensions of the metal strips, the outer ends of said strips being bent to retain said posts in position.

7. A fence panel comprising a sheet of cardboard having transversely-extending perforations therein, metal reinforcing strips on the longitudinal edges of the sheet, said strips extending beyond the ends of the body portion, and a post member at each end of the sheet having slits through which project the extensions of the metal strips, said strips being bent in opposite directions transverse to said slits.

8. A miniature fence comprising a body member and supporting posts therefor, said body member having at least a portion thereof arranged to resemble snow.

9. A miniature fence comprising a section having a central member and posts for maintaining it in an upright position, said section beng covered with material having the appearance of snow crystals.

10. A miniature fence comprising a plurality of independent movable, self-supporting sections, each of which comprises a central portion and a plurality of posts for supporting it in an upright position.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name this 3rd day of March, 1923.

HARRY H. MARTIN.