March 29, 1932. H. L. BUDD 1,851,492

FRAME TAB

Filed May 19, 1930

Fig. 1

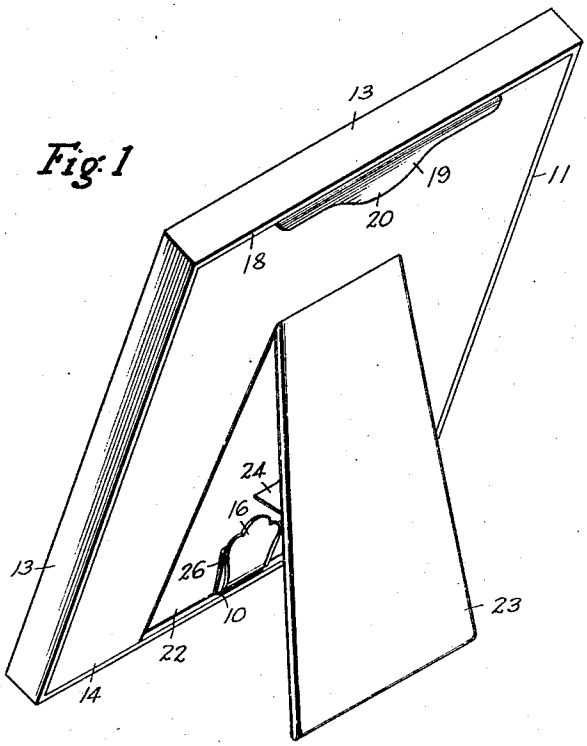


Fig. 2

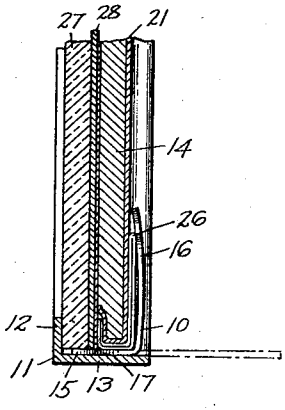
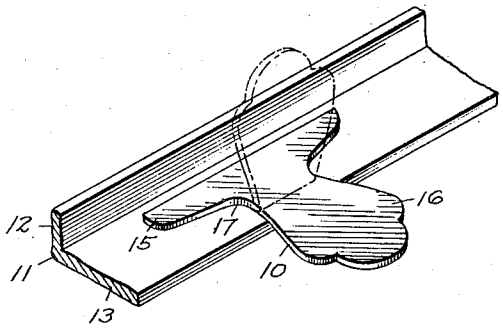


Fig. 3



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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FRAME TAB

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This invention relates to ornamental frames of the type adapted to hold a picture removably and intended to rest on an article of furniture or to be hung up as on a wall, and designed to present an ornamental appearance.

In frames of this type, the frame proper is made of metal, L-shaped in cross-section. A back is inserted into the frame from the rear for the purpose of holding the glass and picture in position. The back is usually made of wood, cardboard or comparatively inexpensive composition board of various types, and is often completely covered with velvet or other ornamental sheet material or fabric cemented thereto by a suitable glue or other adhesive. As the back of the frame should be removable so that pictures may be placed therein or changed from time to time, means are preferably provided for removably securing the back in place. Without such means, the back may shrink and become so loose as to fall out after a time, or it may swell and become wedged so tightly as to make it difficult to remove when the frame is to be opened. Forcible removal of the back may cause damage to the frame when the back is pried loose, and a loose back renders the frame inoperative.

My invention therefore contemplates the provision of means consisting of a minimum number of parts, and requiring no skill in its operation, nor mutilation of the back or glass for securely holding the back normally in place in the frame irrespective of the looseness of the fit, and for allowing the removal of the back with ease and rapidity.

The various objects of my invention will be clear from the description which follows and from the drawings, wherein

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an easel frame to which my invention has been applied.

Fig. 2 is a vertical section of the lower portion of the frame, showing the back-retaining, bendable tab, the loop for manipulating the back and the velvet covering for the back, all greatly exaggerated as to thickness for purposes of clarity.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a portion of the frame showing the bendable tab in inoperative position.

In that practical embodiment of my invention which I have illustrated by way of example, the usual metallic frame is provided. As illustrated, particularly, in Figs. 2 and 3, the frame 11 may be L-shaped in cross-section, being provided with the front flange 12 and the rearwardly extending flange 13 substantially at right angles to each other. To the lowermost part of the flange 13 of the frame, I secure a suitable, bendable tab 10, preferably of thin metal of sufficient length to extend rearwardly of the flange 13 and to be turned upwardly into contact with the rear face of the back 14, to hold the lower edge of said back securely in position. The tab 10 is preferably made of sheet metal and is provided with a comparatively wide section 15 and a narrower rearwardly extending section 16 projecting beyond the rearmost edge of the frame. Said sections 15 and 16 are connected as by means of a suitable fillet 17 at the forward edge of the extension section 16, where said section is the narrowest. The front or wide section 15 may be secured to the lowermost part of the flange 13 in any suitable manner, as by means of solder or the like, or by screws or rivets (not shown) as may be found convenient or desirable. It will be seen that the extreme rearward edge of the section 16 may be formed into any suitable and appropriate design for purposes of ornamentation, and that the lowermost edge of the back 14 and of the other parts inserted into the frame may rest on the section 15, without the necessity of mutilating the edges thereof. Said section, however, is preferably so thin that it does not interfere with the proper support of the parts, though illustrated in Fig. 2 on an exaggerated scale as to thickness.

Depending from the edge 18, which is the rearmost edge of the uppermost part of the flange 13, is the fixed and preferably rigid member 19, also preferably made of sheet material and permanently secured at its upper edge to the flange 13. The member 19 is of less length than the width of the frame, said length being substantially about half

the width of the frame to provide outer portions on the edge 18, free of said member.

The lowermost edge of said member is suitably shaped for ornamental purposes and preferably has its greatest width at its middle part as at 20, said member being arranged substantially parallel to the front flange 12, and being intended to engage the uppermost central portion of the rear face of the back 14.

As has been indicated, the back 14 is covered with velvet 21 or other suitable ornamental fabric, shown in Fig. 2 on a scale greatly exaggerating the thickness thereof, and is provided with a recess as 22 of the same shape and extent as the easel 23, to receive the easel in the closed, folded or inoperative position thereof. A fabric strip as 24 is secured to the face of the recess 22 and to the front face of the easel 23, to limit the outward movement of the easel, which is hinged to the back at its upper edge. It will be understood that where the frame is intended to be hung up and not to rest on a supporting surface, the easel 23, the strip 24 and the recess 22 may be omitted.

The back 14 need not fit tightly into the frame between the flanges 13 but may fit comparatively loosely, in distinction from previous types of such backs which are designed to be forced into place and retained in position by friction. To allow easy removal of the back 14, a fabric loop as 26 is secured to the lowermost edge of the back at one end and is designed to be gripped by the user when the tab 10 is in the dotted line position indicated in Fig. 2, but said loop is also shown exaggerated in thickness in Fig. 2 for clarity.

To assemble the various parts in position, the glass 27 is first arranged in the frame with the front face thereof in contact with the rear face of the flange 12. The picture 28 is then arranged in proper position on the glass after which the back 14 is inserted into place. To do this, the upper edge of the back is first inserted in front of the member 19, the lower edge of the back being arranged rearwardly in spaced relation to the frame and the back being thereby tilted rearwardly. Thereafter, the lower edge of the back is swung forwardly into position inside of the frame and against the picture 28.

The extension 16 of the tab 10 may now be rotated from the dotted line position shown in Fig. 2 up into contact with the rear face of the recess 22 or the rear face of the back, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. After the tab 10 has been bent upwardly against the back, it will be seen that the back cannot fall out even though it shrinks appreciably, since the members 10 and 19 co-operate to prevent movement of the back relatively to the frame. To remove the back as for example, when it is desired to change the picture 28, the extension 16 is bent downwardly into the dotted line position of Fig. 2 and the loop 26 pulled rearwardly, thereby disengaging the lower edge of the frame from the flange 13 and allowing the back to drop downwardly out of contact with the member 19. It will be understood that the thicknesses of the velvet covering 21, the loop 26, and the tab 10, even when combined, are negligible and insufficient to interfere to any substantial extent with the back inserting and removing operations described.

It will be seen that I have provided simple and effective means for removably holding the back and other parts in place of the frame irrespective of the tightness of the fit of the back and frame. It will further be seen that my improved holding means may be used repeatedly without injury and that it is well designed to meet the severe requirements of practical use.

While I have shown and described a particular embodiment of my invention, I do not wish to be understood as limiting myself thereto but intend to claim my invention as broadly as may be permitted by the state of the prior art and the terms of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a picture frame, a frame member L-shaped in cross-section and comprising a front flange and a rearwardly extending flange and having a front opening therein and a larger rear opening, a back of substantially the size of the rear opening and adapted to be inserted thereinto and into frictional engagement with the rearwardly extending flange throughout the entire periphery of said back, said back having straight unmutilated edges throughout for that purpose, a comparatively thin, rigid narrow elongated member depending from the top rear edge of the rearwardly extending flange, a bendable tab of negligible thickness adapted to be straightened to lie in a horizontal plane and arranged below the middle of the rigid member, said tab having a wide front portion having its under face secured to the upper face of the lowermost part of the rearwardly extending flange, said wide portion terminating in a comparatively narrow portion having outwardly diverging edges whereby the tab is bendable about a line rearwardly of the wide portion and forwardly of the rear edge of the flange to which said tab is secured through an angle of substantially 90°, said rigid member and said tab co-operating to apply forward pressure to the rear face of the back, and said back being removable from the frame on the straightening of the narrow portion of the tab to a horizontal position continuous with the wide portion, by first tilting the lowermost edge of the back rearwardly past the tab and then lowering the back past the tab until the uppermost edge of the back has been dropped below the lowermost edge of the rigid member.

2. The combination with a picture frame,

L-shaped in cross-section, and having a front flange and a rearwardly disposed flange arranged at substantially right angles to the front flange, of a metallic member secured to the rear edge of the uppermost rearwardly disposed flange and depending therefrom substantially parallel to the front flange and of less length than the width of the frame, a backing member adapted to fit frictionally into the frame inside of the rearwardly disposed flanges thereof and having straight, unmutilated edges, a glass plate having unmutilated edges between the backing member and the front flange, and a flexible non-resilient, bendable metallic element of sheet material of negligible thickness having a comparatively wide section, the under face of said section being secured to the upper face of the lowermost rearwardly disposed flange and having a narrower section extending rearwardly of said lowermost rearwardly disposed flange and adapted to be bent upwardly against the backing member, the sections of said element being joined by curved fillets at the narrowest portion of said element to provide a comparatively weak bend line about which the element is bent, and said element being adapted to cooperate with said metallic member to removably hold the backing member in place in the frame, the backing member being removable on the straightening of the element and the rearwardly tilting of the member and the lowering of said member from its engagement with the metallic member.

3. In a picture frame, a frame member, a backing member fitted frictionally into the frame, means for securing said members together including a bendable tab having a wide portion secured at its under face to the upper face of the lowermost part of the frame member and a narrower portion bendable into operative position at right angles to the wide portion for securing the backing member in place and a permanently arranged elongated member secured to the upper part of the frame member and paralled to the front face of the frame member and adapted to engage the upper part of the rear face of the backing member in the operative position of said backing member, and when said member is tilted for insertion into the frame.

4. In a picture frame, a metallic frame having a front opening therein and a larger rear opening, a back of substantially the size of the rear opening and adapted to be inserted thereinto, a rigid member depending from the top rear edge of the frame, the length of said member being less than the width of the frame and the width of said member being greatest substantially at its middle point, a bendable tab opposed to said rigid member at the lower edge of the frame and having a wide portion permanently secured to the frame and a comparatively narrow portion extending rearwardly therefrom and adapted to be bent through an angle of substantially 90° against the back to cooperate with the rigid member to removably secure the back in place.

5. In a picture frame, a substantially rectangular frame member L-shaped in cross-section and comprising front flanges and rearwardly extending flanges, and having a front opening therein between the front flanges and a larger rear opening between the rear flanges, a velvet covered back of substantially the same size and shape as that of the rear opening and adapted to be inserted into the rear opening with the edges and ends thereof in frictional engagement with the rearwardly extending flanges, said back having straight unmutilated edges and ends, a glass plate having unmutilated edges and ends and of substantially the same size and shape as that of the back arranged between the back and the front flanges, a comparatively thin rigid elongated member having a straight upper edge soldered to the lower face of the uppermost rearwardly extending flange of the frame and depending therefrom, and of less length than the width of the frame, a bendable tab of sheet metal of negligible thickness having its under face secured to the upper face of the lowermost rearwardly extending flange, said tab having also a comparatively narrow rear portion, the narrowest portion of said tab being arranged forwardly of the rear edge of the rearwardly extending flange to provide a bend line for the tab at said narrowest portion, said rigid member and said tab cooperating to apply forward pressure to the rear face of the back, and said back and said plate being removable from the frame on the straightening of the narrow portion of the tab to a horizontal position continuous with the wide portion by first tilting the lowermost edges of the back and the plate rearwardly past the tab and then lowering the back and the plate until the uppermost edges of the back and the plate have been dropped below the lowermost curved edge of the rigid member, and an easel hinged to the back and adapted to conceal the tab when the easel is in its inoperative position.

HOWARD L. BUDD.