May 29, 1956 N. C. FULMER 2,747,311

DISPLAY FRAME

Filed Dec. 27, 1952

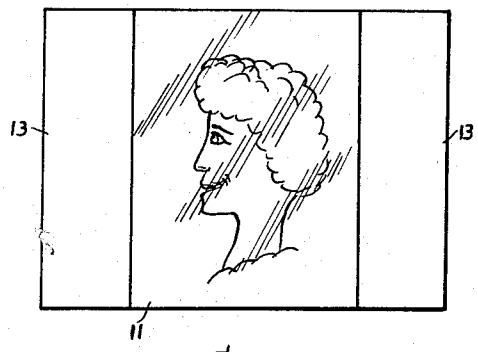


Fig. 1

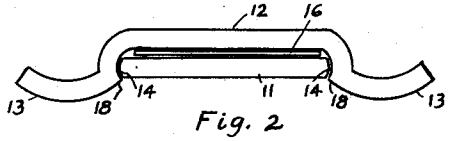


Fig. 2

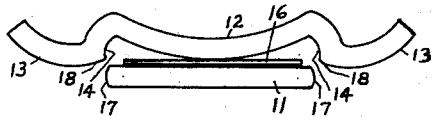


Fig. 3

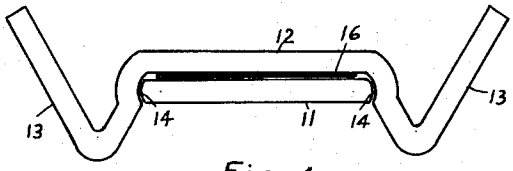


Fig. 4

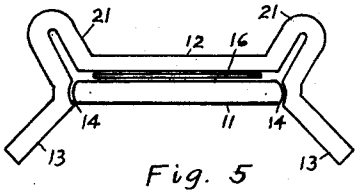


Fig. 5

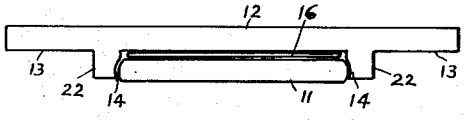


Fig. 6

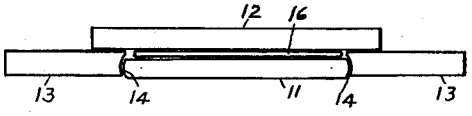


Fig. 7

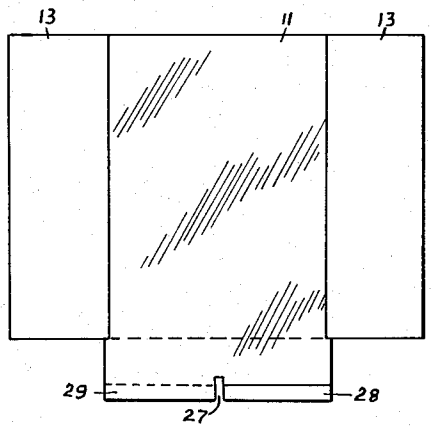


Fig. 8

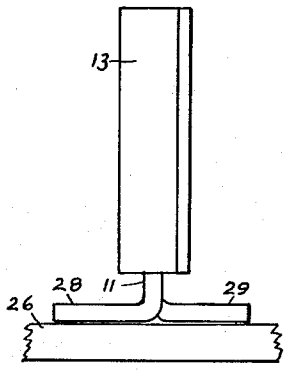


Fig. 9

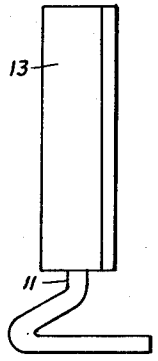


Fig. 10

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United States Patent Office 2,747,311 Patented May 29, 1956

2,747,311

DISPLAY FRAME

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Application December 27, 1952, Serial No. 328,230

2 Claims. (Cl. 40—156)

This invention relates to frames or supports for holding or displaying pictures or the like.

In display frames of the prior art, it has been impossible or difficult to achieve a structure which allows a plurality of pictures or other objects displayed therein to be viewed from two sides thereof, or which permits quick and easy replacement of the picture or other object displayed and which is at the same time rugged, durable, and pleasing in appearance.

An object of the present invention is to provide an improved display frame which overcomes the above-enumerated drawbacks. Still other objects will be apparent from the following disclosure and from the drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a front view of a display frame constructed in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention,

Figure 2 is a top view of the device shown in Fig. 1,

Figure 3 is a top view of the device shown in Fig. 1, shown in temporary position for removing or inserting a picture,

Figures 4, 5, 6, and 7 are top views of alternative structures of the invention,

Figures 8 and 9 are front and side views, respectively, of an alternative embodiment of the invention, and

Figure 10 is a side view of a further embodiment.

The invention comprises, essentially, a transparent front window member **11** and a transparent back window member **12** having levers or ears **13** attached to or extending therefrom and having portions thereof flanking opposite edges of the front window member **11** and provided with clamping surfaces **14** for releasably securing the front window member **11** to the rest of the structure, in the manner shown, for supporting a picture or other object **16** between the window members **11** and **12**. As shown, the front window member **11** preferably is provided with convex edges at two opposite sides thereof, and the clamping surfaces **14** comprise concave surfaces which are positioned to engage the convex edges of the front window member. If desired, the back window member **12** and the levers **13** may be formed integrally, preferably from a transparent and resilient plastic material.

Figures 1 and 2 show the picture or object **16** secured in place between the window members **11, 12**. The object **16** may comprise two pictures, or menus, announcements, or the like, positioned back-to-back, or two pictures or the like printed on opposite sides of a flat object. The clamping surfaces **14** and the edges of the front window **11**, being in the shapes shown or an equivalent tapered or wedge shape, tend to hold the front window **11** against the picture **16**, which in turn is supported by the back window **12**. The thicker the object **16** is, the tighter will be the clamping action, due to the tapered shapes of the clamping surfaces.

The device may be made so that the front window member **11** fits somewhat loosely between the clamping surfaces **14** when the picture **16** is not in place; then, with the picture **16** in place, the edges of the front window

member **11** are urged frontwardly against the tapered surfaces **14**, thereby providing a clamping action which secures the picture **16** in place.

To release the display frame for removal or insertion of a picture or other object, the levers **13** are bent slightly back, as shown in Fig. 3, thereby releasing the front window member **11** and the picture **16**. As indicated in Fig. 3, when the levers **13** are bent back, the back window **12** bends, the center thereof resting against the back of the picture **16** and providing a leverage fulcrum which aids in forcing the clamping surfaces **14** away from the edges **17** of the front window **11**. It is possible, though not as desirable, to provide only a single lever **13** which may be bent back to release one of the clamping surfaces **14** from an edge **17** of the front member **11** in the manner described.

To reassemble, the front window **11** may be pressed with its edges **17** against one or both of the front edges **18** of the clamping surfaces **14**, whereupon it will force the clamping surfaces mutually apart and "pop" into proper position against the picture **16**. The preferred convex shapes of the edges **17** provide rearwardly tapered surfaces which aid in forcing the clamping surfaces **14** apart during assembly, and also provide frontwardly tapered surfaces which cooperate with the clamping surfaces **14** to aid in the clamping action described above.

Although the front and back windows **11, 12** are preferably transparent, the levers **13** may be transparent, translucent, or opaque, as may be desired for artistic or other effects. Of course, only one of the window members need be transparent if only a single picture is to be displayed. If desired, a border may be provided near the edges of the window members to conceal the edges of the picture **16**, or a mask may be positioned in front of the picture, in the well-known manner.

In the embodiment of Fig. 4, the levers **13** are shaped to extend forwardly from the clamping surfaces **14**, the extremities thereof being curved toward and beyond the rear of the device. The levers **13** thus form, at their bottom edges, a base for resting the display frame on a horizontal surface.

The embodiment of Fig. 5 provides curved portions **21** in the levers **13** between the back window **12** and the clamping surfaces **14**, and the extremities of the levers extend forwardly, the levers thus providing a base at their bottom edges. The curved portions **21** also provide added resiliency for releasing of the front window **11** when the levers **13** are pushed back or outwardly.

In the embodiment of Fig. 6, the clamping surfaces **14** are provided on the inner edges of mutually parallel ribs **22** which extend from the levers **13** at their points of joinder to the back window **12**.

In the embodiment of Fig. 7, the levers **13** are fabricated individually and are provided with clamping surfaces **14**, and are then attached by cement or other means to the rear window **12** as shown. The levers **13** may be made of colored or opaque material, whereas the windows **11, 12** are of transparent material. This embodiment, as well as the embodiments of Figs. 1–3 and 6, may be held, supported, or suspended by brackets, strings or the like in any of the several manners well known in the art. Also, the levers **13** of any of these embodiments may be curved in a manner similar to that shown in Figs. 4 or 5 to provide a base.

In the embodiment of Figs. 8 and 9, the front window member **11** extends downwardly and is provided with a base for resting on a table-top **26** or the like, which base may be formed by partially slitting the window **11** as indicated at **27** to provide two flanking portions **28, 29**, and bending one of the portions **28** frontwardly and bending the other portion **29** rearwardly, as shown. If desired,

two or more slits may be provided to form several base portions, some of which are bent frontwardly and the others bent rearwardly. Or, the bottom part of the front window **11** may be attached to a base pedestal or may be bent as shown in Fig. 10 to provide a base.

It will be appreciated that the invention provides an improved display frame which renders displayed objects visible on two sides thereof, which permits quick and easy replacement of the displayed object, and which may be conveniently rested on a table-top or supported in other ways.

While preferred embodiments of the invention and modifications thereof have been shown and described, other embodiments and modifications will occur to those skilled in the art which will fall within the scope of the invention as defined in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A display frame comprising a substantially flat and rigid front member having a pair of oppositely disposed mutually parallel edges, and a back member comprising a substantially flat portion having a surface positioned in closely spaced parallelism with a surface of said front member thereby to hold a displayed object between said surfaces, at least one of said members being transparent, said back member further comprising a pair of clamping members respectively engaging said parallel edges of the front member, and a lever member attached to one of said clamping members and extending outwardly from said one clamping member beyond the respectively engaged edge of the front member in a direction substantially away from said front and back members whereby the front surface of said lever member is capable of manual engegement, said back member being sufficiently resilient so that when said lever member is forced backwardly by manual pressure against the front surface of said lever member said last-mentioned clamping member is substantially released from engagement with said front member thereby disengaging said front member from said back member.

2. A display frame comprising a substantially flat and rigid front member having a pair of oppositely disposed mutually parallel edges, and a back member comprising a substantially flat portion having a surface positioned in closely spaced parallelism with a surface of said front member thereby to hold a displayed object between said surfaces, at least one of said members being transparent, said back member further comprising a pair of clamping members respectively engaging said parallel edges of the front member, and a pair of lever members attached to said clamping members and extending respectively outwardly from said clamping members beyond said respectively engaged edges in a direction substantially away from said front and back members whereby the front surfaces of said lever members are capable of manual engagement, said back member being sufficiently resilient so that when said lever members are forced backwardly by manual pressure against the front surfaces of said lever members said clamping members are substantially released from engagement with said front member thereby disengaging said front member from said back member.

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