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Hughes

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[54] **EASEL STRUCTURE FOR PAINTING**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **353/44;** 353/120

[51] **Int. Cl.** **G03b 21/00**

[58] **Field of Search** 353/44, 45, 79; 350/121

[56] **References Cited**

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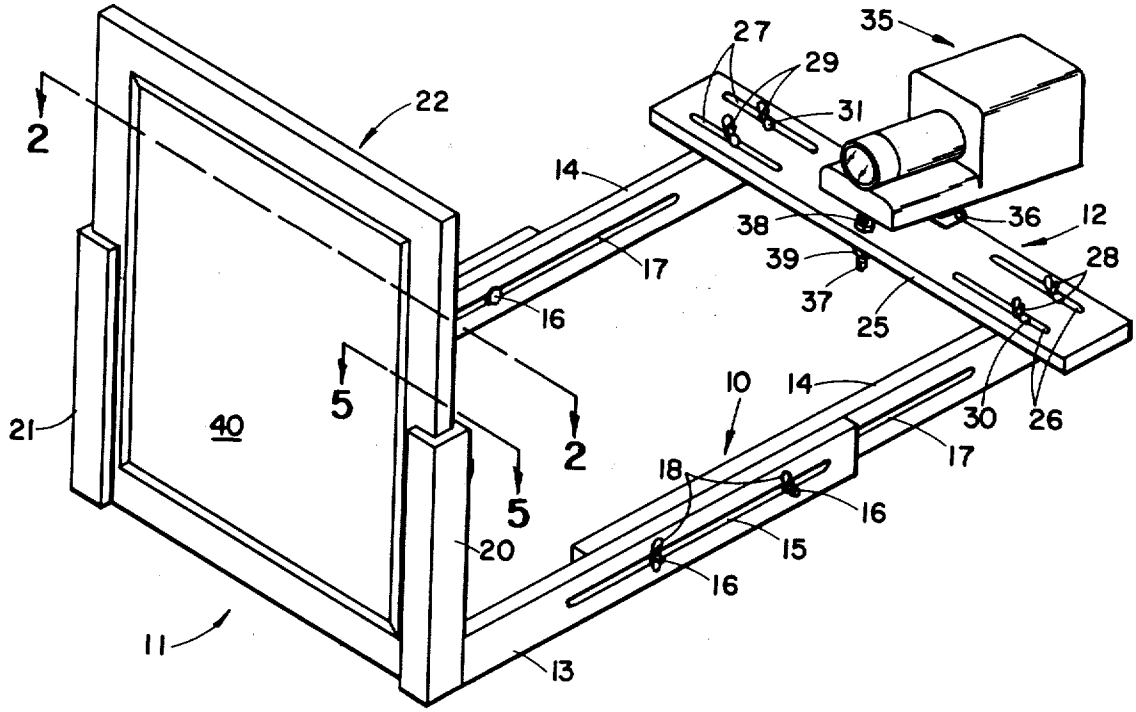
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Primary Examiner—Richard E. Aegerter
Assistant Examiner—A. J. Mirmito

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An easel structure that includes a base support and an easel carried on the support and which carries a canvas-like sheet composed of a front side of fabric and a rear side of a layer of plastic that stiffens the sheet. The sheet is translucent. Supported on the opposite end of the base support is a slide projector that is adapted to project a picture on the rear or plastic side of the sheet so that it may be painted on the fabric side.

9 Claims, 6 Drawing Figures



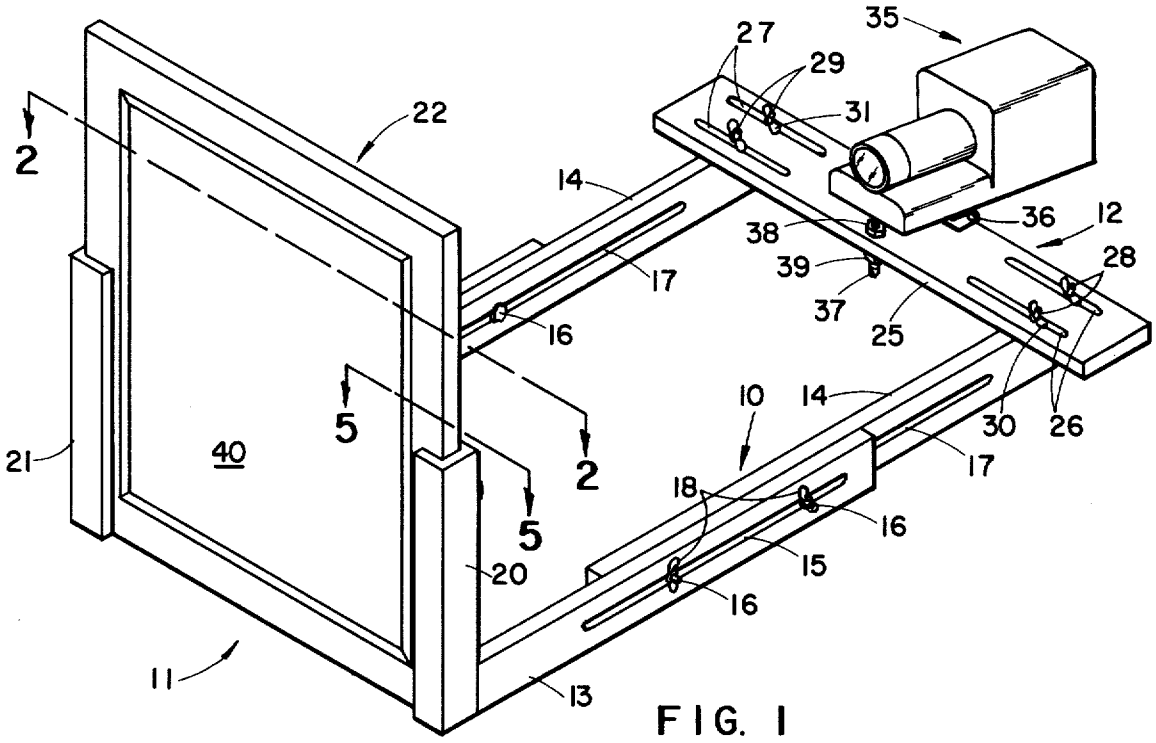


FIG. 1

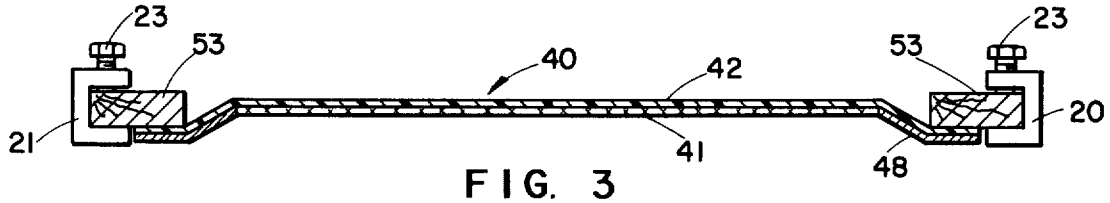


FIG. 3

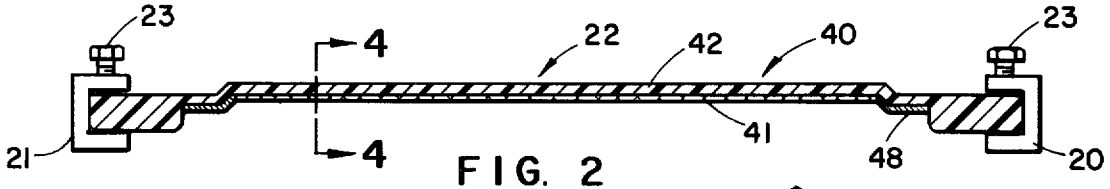


FIG. 2

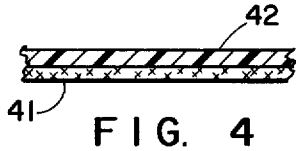


FIG. 4

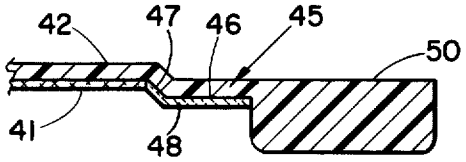


FIG. 5

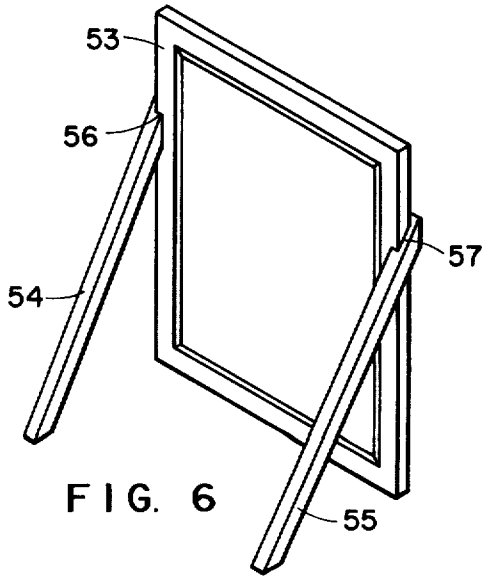


FIG. 6

EASEL STRUCTURE FOR PAINTING

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to an aid to a painter for providing an easy method of painting, either in oil or water color, a portrait or other scenic arrangements on a fabric-type canvas. In many practices of teaching, it is common to provide a photo reproduction on a glass or screen. Such is commonly used as teaching aids in school. It is also commonly known to provide aids for painters such as using numbers on sections of paintings, each number indicating a color or paint to be used. However, such an arrangement of painting cannot be used when it is desired to paint a scene or a portrait of an individual that is known to the painter. It is the purpose of the present invention to provide an easel structure in which common scenes may be directed on a fabric that appears to be a painter's canvas so that the painter may copy directly on the canvas a photo reproduction of the scene or individual.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

With the above in mind, it is the primary object of the present invention to provide an easel structure that has in combination a base structure with front and rear ends and a support on the front end of the base structure an easel that carries in upright position a canvas-like sheet composed of a front side of fabric and a rear side of plastic. Due to the body that is given to the fabric by the plastic, the fabric can be relatively thin so that an image of a photocopied scene or photocopy of an individual which is projected on the rear side will be seen from the front side. The plastic layer is, of course, translucent so that the image will project through the sheet. The base support carries on its rear end a projector that is directed at the rear side of the sheet and which may receive slides so that the image on the slides is projected on the sheet. The base support is adjustable transversely as well as fore and aft so that different sizes of sheets and different portions of a photo reproduction can be projected on the sheet-like canvas.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a perspective view taken from the front and to the left side of the easel structure.

FIG. **2** is an enlarged sectional view taken substantially along the line **2—2** of FIG. **1.**

FIG. **3** is an enlarged sectional view similar to FIG. **2** but showing a modified form of the invention.

FIG. **4** is an enlarged sectional view taken substantially along the line **4—4** of FIG. **2.**

FIG. **5** is an enlarged sectional view taken along the line **5—5** of FIG. **2.**

FIG. **6** is a perspective view of the easel and its support taken from the rear and right side of the easel structure and showing a modified form of the invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The easel structure is composed of a base, indicated in its entirety by the reference numeral **10,** having a front end **11** and a rear end **12.** The base is composed on each side of a front outer fore-and-aft extending side member **13** and a rear inner fore-and-aft extending side member **14.** The side members **13, 14** are disposed in side-by-side relation and the outer side member is provided with an elongated horizontal slot **15** that receives a pair of bolts **16** extending through matching slots **17** in the inner member **14.** Wing nuts **18** cooperate with the respective bolts **16** to detachably connect the inner member **14** to the outer member **13** at the desired fore-and-aft position. Carried on the forward side members **13** at their forward ends are upright U-shaped easel supports **20, 21** respectively. The supports **20, 21** open inwardly to receive opposite edges of an easel **22.** As will later become fully appreciated, the outer portions or borders of the easel **22** are enlarged. Small bolts **23** extend through the rear leg portions of the respective supports **20, 21** for holding the easel **22** in a fixed location with respect to the supports. The bolts **23** serve two purposes, the first being to fix the easel **22** in the supports **20, 21** and the second being to utilize the structure of the easel **22** to provide transverse rigidity to the forward end of the base support **10.**

The rear end **12** of the base support **10** is composed in part of a transverse horizontal plate **25** which has on its left end parallel transverse slots **26** and on its right end transverse parallel slots **27.** The slots **26** receive threaded studs **28** which are fixed to and project upwardly from the upper edge of the side member **14** on the left-hand side of the support. The right-hand slots **27** receive threaded studs **29** that are fixed to and project upwardly from the upper edge of the inner fore-and-aft side member **14** on the right-hand side of the support. Wing nuts **30, 31** are provided for the respective studs **28, 29** and permit the plate **25** to be fixed in any desired transverse position with respect to the side members **14.**

Centrally located on the plate **25** is a slide projector indicated in its entirety by the reference numeral **35.** The rear portion of the projector **35** is carried on the plate **25** by a transverse horizontal hinge **36** and at its front end by a tapped member **37** that extends through nuts **38, 39.** As may be readily apparent, the angle of projection by the slide projector **35** may be adjusted by suitable use of the nuts **38, 39** on the threaded member **37.**

Carried in the vertical slots of the U-shaped supports **20, 21** is the easel **22** composed of a central sheet-like section **40.** The sheet **40** is composed of a front layer **41** of fabric material, normally of a white color so as to simulate an artist's canvas. A rear layer **42** of plastic material is bonded to the rear surface of the fabric layer **41.** A bonding agent may be used between the two layers **41, 42.** Normally, the fabric is of a thin gauge and the plastic layer **42** is used to give body and stiffness to the fabric layer **41.** However, the layers **41, 42** when bonded together are translucent so that a picture projected from the projector **35** will appear on the front face of the layer **41.**

In the preferred form of the invention, the central sheet portion **40** is bordered by a simulated mat section **45** that has a front surface forwardly of the face of the fabric layer **41.** The plastic border **45** also has an inclined surface **47** which extends between the front face of the layer **41** and the front surface **46** of the mat. Thus, the mat portion **45** gives the appearance of a conventional mat. For purposes of protecting the mat portion **45** from being covered accidentally by paint, a paper layer of protective material **48** is placed over the mat surfaces **46, 47.** The protective layer **48** may be removed from the surfaces **46, 47** when the painting is complete. The mat portion **45** is integral with the plas-

tic layer **42** and may be molded when the original plastic sheet is molded.

Integral with the mat portion **45** and extending outwardly as a second border is an enlarged border member **50.** The portion **50** may be molded to simulate a frame on a picture. For purposes of the present invention only the forward corners have been rounded off. However, any other designs may be molded in the border portion **50** to thereby simulate a more ornate-type of frame. The outer border or frame portion **50** is integral with the mat portion **45.**

In use, the entire easel structure is placed on a table or other area so that the fabric layer **41** faces a painter. The entire easel **22** is dropped into the slots of the supports **20, 21** and the bolts **23** lock the easel **22** in position. The thumb nuts **16, 30** and **31** are loosened and the frame support **10** is adjusted so that the projector **35** projects the preferred size image on the sheet-like center section **40.** The thumb nuts are then tightened. The nuts **38, 39** which hold the projector and the entire device is locked in position. The painter then approaches the easel and paints on the fabric layer **41** the picture that is projected on the plastic side **42.** By locking the frame structure in its desired position, the entire structure may be set aside or the painting stopped without fear of the image being changed or moved with respect to the easel **22.** Following finishing of the painting, the entire easel **22** may be removed from the supports **20, 21** and the frame portion **50** painted to the desired color. Following this, the paper protection for the mat surfaces **46, 47** may be removed and the mat surfaces **46, 47** will give a smooth, dull white appearance of a typical painter's mat.

Reference is now made to FIGS. **3** and **6** for showing modified forms of the invention. In this invention, the center sheet portion **40** is merely formed with the mat portion on its outer border surface. The mat portion has its outer edge stapled or otherwise fixed to a typical wooden-type easel frame **53.** The support members **20, 21.** Following painting the paper surface **48** is again removed and the painting is then inserted in a frame of a desired nature.

In FIG. **6,** the easel structure as shown in FIG. **3** is merely supported on a pair of wooden legs **54, 55** having notches **56, 57** that receive the easel border **53.** The notches **56, 57** are so shaped that the supports **54, 55** will be at an angle when the easel and legs are positioned on a table. In such an arrangement, any projector may operate and the easel structure may be moved toward or away from the projector to provide for the correct image on the back side of the easel.

I claim:

1. An easel structure for a painting composed of a base having a front end and a rear end; an easel detachably supported in upright position on the front end of the base; a canvas-like sheet of material supported on the easel having a fabric facing on the front side of the sheet and a relatively stiff plastic layer bonded to and on the rear side of the sheet, said sheet further being translucent and capable of showing from the front a slidetype projection projected on the rear surface of the sheet; a projector for showing slide projections supported for fore-and-aft movement on the base adjacent the rear end thereof and directed so as to project slide-type photo reproductions on the plastic side of the sheet.

2. An easel structure for a painting composed of a base support; an easel detachably supported in upright position on the base support; and a canvas-like sheet of material supported on the easel having a fabric facing on the front side of the sheet that faces a painter and a relatively stiff plastic layer bonded to and on the rear side of the sheet, said sheet further being translucent and capable of showing from the front a slide-type projection projected on the rear surface of the sheet.

3. The easel structure as set forth in claim **2** in which said sheet is characterized by having a plastic border molded to represent a frame that is fixed to the edges of said sheet.

4. The easel structure as set forth in claim **3** in which the plastic border is integral with the plastic layer on the rear side of said sheet.

5. The easel structure as set forth in claim **2** in which said sheet is provided around its edges with an integral portion having an offset surface parallel to but forwardly of the plane of the fabric surface and with an inclined surface joining the fabric surface and said offset surface whereby the offset and inclined surfaces represent a picture mat extending around and at the edges of the sheet.

6. The easel structure as set forth in claim **5** in which the offset surface and inclined surface is provided with a coating that is removable upon completion of a painted picture on the sheet.

7. The easel structure as set forth in claim **5** further characterized by a border formed of plastic and extending outwardly of the offset portion and molded to represent a frame extending outwardly of the offset portion.

8. The easel structure as set forth in claim **2** further characterized by said support having adjustably fixed thereto a projector support positioned rearwardly of the easel and adapted to move toward and away from the easel so that a projector mounted in the projector support may project on the rear surface of the sheet a photo image of the desired size.

9. An easel structure for a painting composed of a base support; and a canvas-like sheet of material supported on the base support having a fabric on the front side of the sheet that faces a painter and including a relatively stiff plastic layer on the rear side of the sheet and bonded to the fabric to effect relative rigidity thereto, said sheet further being translucent and capable of showing from the front a slidetype projection projected on the rear surface of the sheet.

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