Nov. 18, 1958 N. CARROLL 2,860,437

PICTURE FRAME

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FIG. 2.

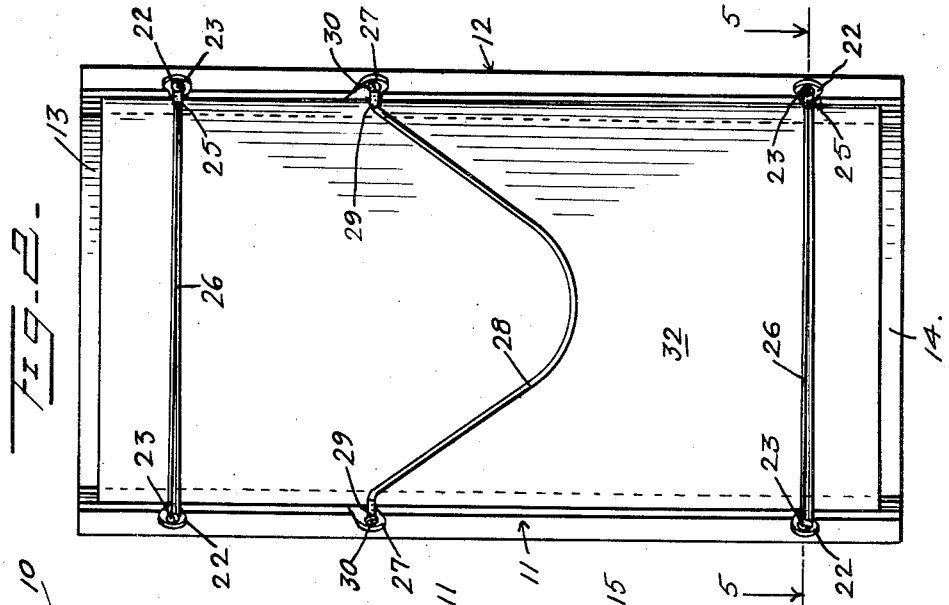


FIG. 1.

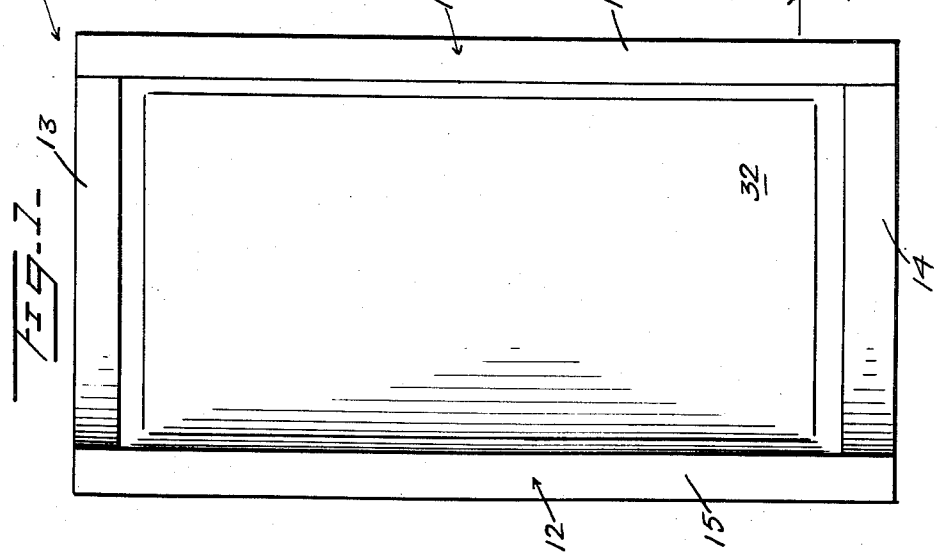
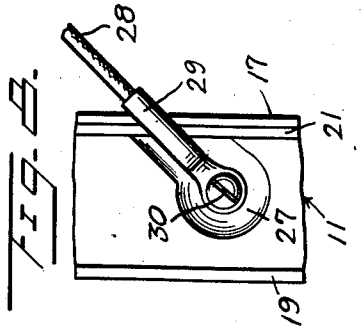


FIG. 3.



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FIG. 3.

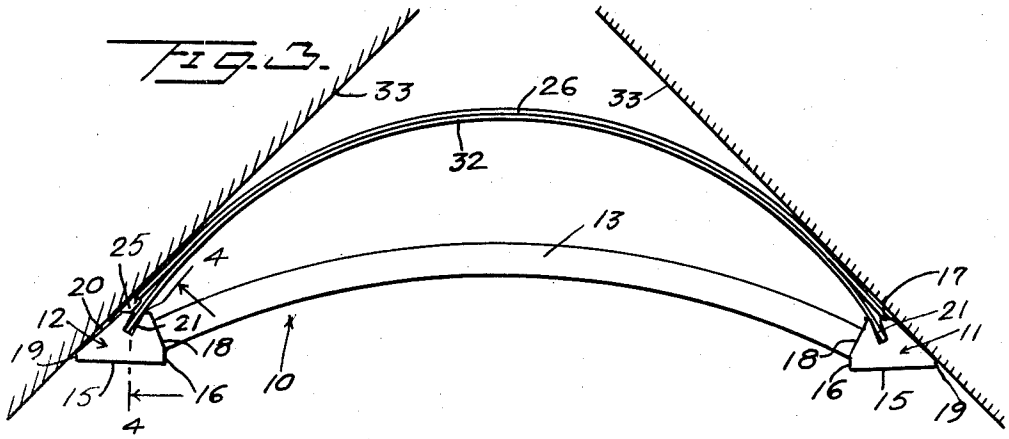


FIG. 4.

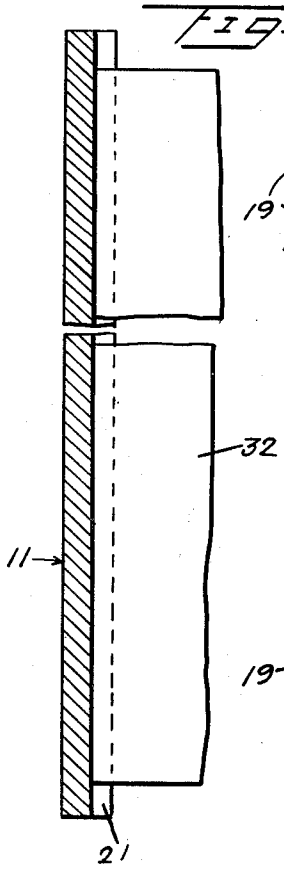
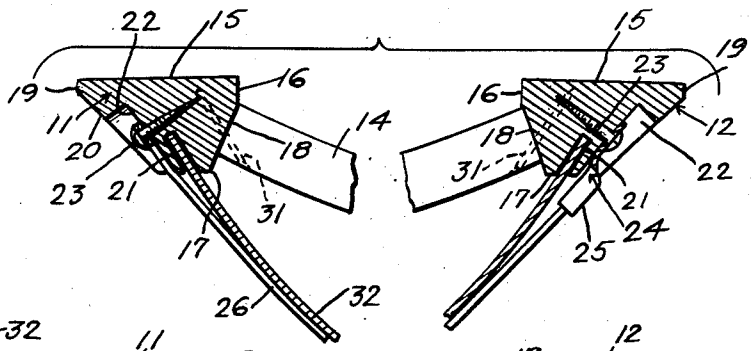


FIG. 5.



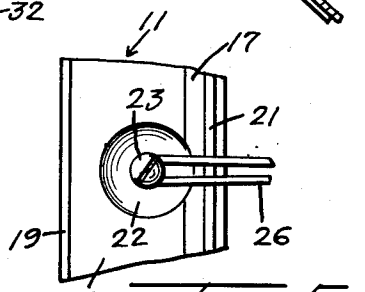


FIG. 6.

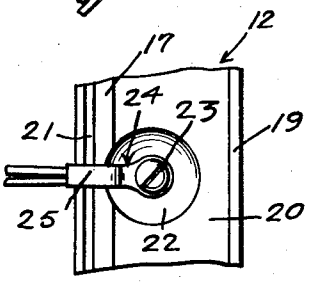


FIG. 7.

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2,860,437

Patented Nov. 18, 1958

2,860,437

PICTURE FRAME

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Application November 4, 1957, Serial No. 694,334

9 Claims. (Cl. 40—152)

This invention relates to a novel construction of picture frame adapted to be mounted in a corner of a room for effectively supporting, framing and displaying pictures, photographs, transparencies and the like.

More particularly, it is an aim of the present invention to provide a picture frame which is so constructed as to support a picture in recessed curved relation to a front side of the picture frame and in such a manner as to materially enhance the illusion of depth in the picture and to produce a third dimensional effect in connection with the scene portrayed.

Another and primary object of the present invention is to provide a picture frame having novel means for detachably mounting pictures therein and which is so constructed that when the picture is removed from the frame the separated picture and frame will be much more compact for storage and shipment than the assembled picture and frame.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a picture frame having portions beveled and curved in a manner to further enhance the illusion of depth in the scene depicted by the picture and around which said frame portions are disposed.

Various other objects and advantages of the invention will hereinafter become more fully apparent from the following description of the drawings, illustrating a presently preferred embodiment thereof, and wherein:

Figure 1 is a front elevational view showing the picture frame and with a picture mounted therein;

Figure 2 is a rear elevational view of the same;

Figure 3 is an enlarged top plan view thereof, showing the picture frame and the picture supported thereby mounted in a corner;

Figure 4 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view, taken substantially along a plane as indicated by the line 4—4 of Figure 3;

Figure 5 is an enlarged fragmentary horizontal sectional view taken substantially along a plane as indicated by the line 5—5 of Figure 2;

Figure 6 is a fragmentary rear elevational view of a portion of one side rail of the frame;

Figure 7 is a similar view of a complementary portion of the other side rail of the frame, and

Figure 8 is a similar view of another portion of the side rail disclosed in Figure 6.

Referring more specifically to the drawings, the picture frame in its entirety is designated generally **10** and includes complementary side rails **11** and **12**, a top bar **13** and a bottom bar **14**. The top and bottom bars **13** and **14** extend between and are secured at their ends to end portions of the side rails **11** and **12** for supporting said side rails in spaced apart substantially parallel relation to one another.

The side rails **11** and **12** have complementary substantially coplanar front faces **15** and substantially parallel inner side wall faces **16** which extend rearwardly from inner edges of the front faces **15**. Said side rails **11** and **12** have substantially coplanar and relatively narrow rear

faces **17** which are disposed substantially parallel to the front faces **15**. The side rails **11** and **12** are also provided with inner faces **18** which extend between the longitudinal back edges of the inner faces **16** and the rear faces **17**, and which inner or rear faces **18** are beveled and disposed in rearwardly diverging relation to one another from the inner faces **16**. As clearly illustrated in Figure 5, the beveled inner faces **18** are of a width substantially greater than the width of the inner faces **16**. The side rails **11** and **12** also include narrow outer faces or edges **19** which are likewise disposed substantially parallel to one another and project rearwardly from the outer edges of the front faces **15**. The side rails **11** and **12** also have beveled outer faces **20** which extend rearwardly in converging relation to one another from the outer edges or faces **19** to the rear faces **17**. The side rails **11** and **12** are provided with grooves **21** extending from end-to-end thereof and which open outwardly of the rear faces **17**. The grooves **21** are of substantial depth and are disposed in rearwardly converging relation to one another, as clearly illustrated in Figures 3 and 5.

The outer faces **20** of both side rails are provided with corresponding recesses **22** adjacent the ends thereof, portions of which open through the rear faces **17**, outwardly with respect to the grooves **21**, as seen in Figures 5, 6 and 7. Headed screw fastenings **23** are anchored in the rails **11** and **12** and have their heads disposed in the recesses **22**. The screw fastenings of one of the side rails, as for example the rail **12**, extend through and anchor metal tips **24** in the recesses **22** of said rail **12** and so that the tubular ends of the tips **24** extend from the open portions of the recesses **22** and rearwardly from the rear face **17**. The ends of an elastic strand **26** forming an elastic loop are anchored in said tubular end **25** of each tip **24**, and said elastic loops **26** are adapted to detachably engage the screw fastenings **23** of the other complementary recesses **22** of the rail **11**, so that the elastic loops **26** extend detachably across the back of the picture frame and are detachably connected to the screws **23** of the rail **11**, for a purpose which will hereinafter be described.

The outer faces of the rails **11** and **12** are each provided with a recess **27**, as seen in Figures 2 and 8. The recesses **27** open upwardly at an incline through the rear faces **17** and are located between the upper and lower recesses **22** and preferably nearer said upper recesses, as seen in Figure 2. A nonelastic picture hook engaging strand **28** has apertured metal tips **29** extending into the recesses **27** and secured therein by screw fastenings **30**. The strand **28** is longer than the spacing between the rails **11** and **12** to provide slack therein, as seen in Figure 2.

The end bars **13** and **14** extend between the upper and lower ends of the side rails **11** and **12** and have their ends disposed against the ends of the beveled inner faces **18** and secured thereto in any suitable manner, as by driven fastenings **31** and/or a bonding medium, not shown, such as glue. Said end bars **13** and **14** are rearwardly bowed relative to the side rails **11** and **12**, as seen in Figures 1 to 3 and 5, and the lower end bar **14** is preferably wider than the upper end bar **13**, as seen in Figure 1.

A sheet **32** of a material which is capable of being flexed and which may constitute a picture, a photograph, a transparency or other illustration, is adapted to be supported by the frame **10** and is of a width greater than the spacing between the slots **21** and of a length less than the over-all length of the frame **10** but preferably somewhat greater than the spacing between the end bars **13** and **14**. The sheet **32** is flexed longitudinally so that the longitudinal side edges thereof can be inserted into the slots **21** and so that the front side of the sheet con-

taining the picture, photograph or illustration will be the concave side thereof and will face toward the frame **10**. The picture **32** is positioned under the picture hook engaging strand **28**, so that said strand extends across the back thereof. The picture **32** due to its tendency to assume a flat condition is supported by engagement of its longitudinal side edges in the grooves **21** and said side edges, due to the fact that the sheet **32** is under flexure, tend to press into the beds of the grooves **21** and to frictionally engage the walls of the grooves to securely maintain the picture therein. In addition, after the sheet **32** has been applied to the frame **10**, the elastic loops **26** are stretched across the convex outer side of the sheet **32** and the free ends of said loops are engaged over the fastenings **23** of the rail **11** to provide additional means for securing the sheet or picture **32** in the frame **10**. However, it will be readily apparent that the elastic loops **26** can be disengaged from the fastenings **23** of the rail **11** so that the sheet or picture **32** can be quickly and easily removed from the frame **10**. It will also be readily obvious that when the picture is removed from the frame **10**, the frame and picture can be much more compactly stored or shipped than when assembled, as illustrated in the drawings.

It will be obvious that the curvature of the picture inwardly and away from the plane of the frame **10** will increase the illustion of depth in the picture. This illusion of depth or third dimensional effect is further emphasized and enhanced by the beveled inner faces **18** which, as seen in Figure 1, are not visible when the picture is being viewed and which materially enhances the illusion of depth adjacent the side edges of the picture. The greater width of the bottom bar **14** relative to the top bar **13** also intends to emphasize the appearance of depth in the picture.

It will be readily apparent that the frame **10** containing the picture or sheet **32** may be readily mounted between two walls **33** of a room forming a corner, as clearly illustrated in Figure 3, and the outer faces **20** of the two side rails **11** and **12** form a right angle with one another and accordingly are adapted to lie substantially flush against portions of the walls **33** when the picture frame is thus disposed. It will be obvious that the picture hook engaging strand **28** may engage conventional picture hooks, not shown, which can be secured to the walls **33** for supporting the frame and picture.

Various modifications and changes are contemplated and may be resorted to, without departing from the function or scope of the invention as hereinafter defined by the appended claims.

I claim as my invention:

1. A picture frame comprising complementary elongated side rails and top and bottom end bars, said end bars being connected to end portions of the side rails and supporting said side rails in spaced apart substantially parallel relation to one another, said side rails having substantially coplanar front faces constituting the front of the frame, said top and bottom bars being bowed from end-to-end thereof rearwardly of the frame and away from the front thereof, said side rails having rear faces and being provided with grooves opening outwardly of said rear faces, beyond the ends of the top and bottom bars, said grooves being adapted to receive side edge portions of a sheet for supporting the sheet flexed rearwardly and away from the frame and with the concave picture bearing front side of the sheet facing forwardly and toward the frame.

2. A picture frame as in claim 1, said grooves being disposed in rearwardly converging relation to one another.

3. A picture frame as in claim 1, said side rails having relatively wide rearwardly diverging beveled inner faces.

4. A picture frame as in claim 3, the ends of said top and bottom bars being disposed against said beveled inner faces.

5. A picture frame as in claim 4, said side rails having inner side faces, narrower than said beveled inner faces and extending between said front faces and the beveled inner faces.

6. A picture frame as in claim 1, said side rails having beveled rearwardly converging outer faces disposed at substantially a right angle to one another and adapted to abut corner forming wall portions for mounting the picture frame and picture in a corner.

7. A picture frame as in claim 6, elastic members connected to said side rails and extending from said outer faces around the convex side of the sheet for yieldably urging the sheet toward the frame and into engagement with said grooves.

8. A picture frame as in claim 7, said elastic members each being detachably connected to one of the side rails.

9. A picture frame as in claim 1, the lower bar being wider than the upper bar to enhance the appearance of depth in the picture.

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