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FOLDABLE EASEL-TYPE DESK CALENDAR SUPPORT WITH EXTENSIBLE AND RETRACTABLE TAB

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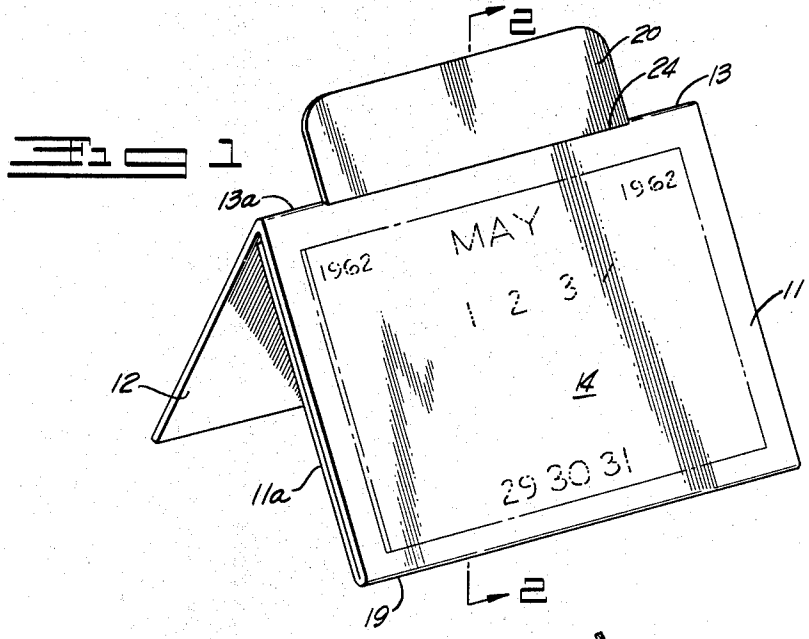


FIG 1

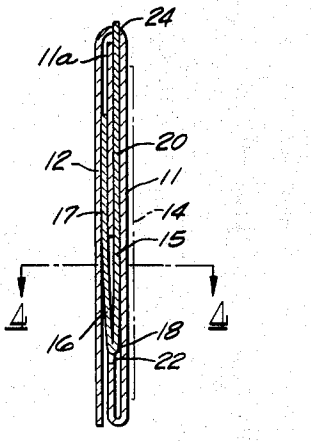


FIG 3

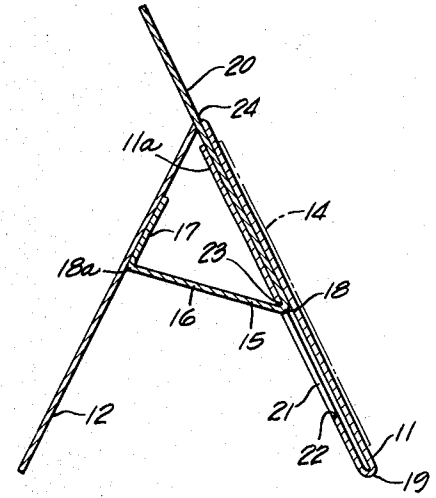


FIG 2

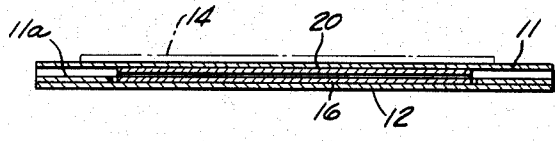


FIG 4

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FOLDABLE EASEL-TYPE DESK CALENDAR SUPPORT WITH EXTENSIBLE AND RETRACTABLE TAB

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3 Claims. (Cl. 40—120)

This invention relates to a foldable easel-type desk calendar support with extensible and retractable tab. The extensible and retractable tab or panel of the support is particularly useful for bearing printed advertising matter or other indicia although it is not limited thereto. Also, the support is not limited to use in a desk calendar but is capable of use as a support for other purposes.

According to this invention, there is provided a support of the easel type which includes front and rear panels that are joined together at an upper hinge or fold line for relative swinging movement from a flat folded laminated position to an unfolded or spread angular supporting position. Operatively connected between the two panels is a diagonal bracing tongue which not only automatically assumes a bracing position when the panels are swung apart into supporting position but also includes a connected panel or tab which moves automatically between a withdrawn or retracted position between the support panels, when they are folded, to an extended visible position when the panels are unfolded into supporting position. The tab slides inwardly and outwardly through a slot at the fold line and the connection of the tab to the bracing tongue is made in such a manner that the proper extending and retracting movement of the tab occurs automatically in accordance with and as a result of the unfolding and folding of the support panels.

In the accompanying drawing, there is illustrated a desk calendar embodying the principles of this invention but as previously indicated, this invention is not necessarily limited to a desk calendar.

In this drawing:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a desk calendar embodying this invention showing the supporting panels thereof in unfolded or supporting position with the extensible and retractable tab in extended or visible position.

FIGURE 2 is a vertical transverse sectional view taken along line 2—2 of FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 3 is a view similar to FIGURE 2 but showing the calendar in folded laminated condition.

FIGURE 4 is a horizontal sectional view taken along line 4—4 of FIGURE 3.

With reference to the drawing, there is illustrated a structure which embodies this invention and which, for example, is shown as being in the form of a foldable easel-type desk calendar support. The entire support is preferably made of cardboard, paperboard, or other relatively inexpensive material although it could be of plastic or other suitable material. The support comprises a front panel **11** and a rear panel **12** which are connected together at an upper hinge line **13**. It is preferred that these two panels **11** and **12** be formed from a single blank of material which is folded along the line **13** although they could be formed as separate panels and suitably joined by an attaching hinge structure. The front panel may carry pages or sheets **14** for particular months of a calendar or any other matter which it is desired to display. The rear panel **12** may serve merely as a support in cooperation with the panel **11**, when it is unfolded relative thereto, to provide an easel-type display structure, as indicated in FIGURES 1 and 2.

In addition to the panels **11** and **12**, a combination brace and display tab member **15** is operatively connected between the two panels **11** and **12**. This member **15** is preferably made of the same material as the panels **11** and **12** and comprises a brace section or tongue **16** which has an angular flange **17** on its rear or inner edge hinged thereto at a fold line **18***a* and which is disposed in flat contact with the inner surface of the support **12** at a location substantially above the midpoint of the height of the panel **12**, being preferably bonded thereto or attached in any other suitable manner. The brace **16** is also connected by a fold and hinge line **18** to the lower end of a tab or panel **20**. This tab **20** is slidably mounted between the outer or face part of the panel **11** and the inner or guide flap **11***a* of that panel. The flap **11***a* is provided preferably by folding the panel **11** inwardly and upwardly along a lower edge fold line **19** so that the forward face of the flap **11***a* is in flat contact with the rear face of the panel **11** although these members could be formed as separate members hinged together. The laminations **11** and **11***a* are preferably glued together along their contacting bottom edges and along their contacting side edges but along the other side edge and top edge they are not glued together so that the flap **11***a* is yieldable inwardly relative to the panel **11**.

The flap **11***a* is provided with a substantially rectangular opening **21** of substantial height which extends from substantially the mid-level thereof downwardly for a substantial distance, the lower edge of the opening being indicated at **22** and its upper edge being indicated at **23**. In its lateral extent, the opening is just slightly greater than the lateral extent of the member **15**. Consequently, the member **15**, as indicated in FIGURE 2, can extend through the opening **21** and the tab **20** can extend upwardly between the upper portions of flap **11***a* and the panel **11** when the panels **11** and **12** are spread. The upper or distal end of the tab **20** is adapted to pass outwardly through a slot **24** in the fold or hinge line **13** between the hinged support panels **11** and **12**. It will be understood that the slot **24** is of a length slightly greater than the width of the tab **20** but substantially less than the width of the panels **11** and **12** so that the slot is closed at each end by substantial amounts of material **13***a* at the hinge line **13**. The opening **21** is of corresponding length.

It will be noted from FIGURE 3 that when the structure is in folded condition, a laminated structure is provided which consists from front to rear of the front panel **11**, the tab **20**, the guide flap **11***a*, the brace section **16** which will be in substantial alignment with the attaching flange **17** and finally, the rear support panel **12**. At this time, the hinge line **18** will be located slightly above the lower edge **22** of the opening **21**. The tab **20** will, at this time, be retracted downwardly to such an extent that it just projects slightly upwardly through the slot **24**.

If the structure is now unfolded from the laminated condition illustrated in FIGURES 3 and 4 to the spread condition illustrated in FIGURES 1 and 2 by swinging the flaps **11** and **12** apart about the hinge line **13**, the brace portion **16** will be pulled upwardly and rearwardly relative to the flap **11** and this will exert an upward pull on the tab **20** causing the fold line **18** to move upwardly in the opening **21** and causing the tab to slide upwardly between the guide flap **11***a* and the panel **11** and out through the slot **24** to its extended position illustrated in FIGURES 1 and 2. This movement will continue until the fold line **18** engages the upper edge **23** of the opening **21** which will provide a stop arrangement that will limit spreading of the flaps **11** and **12** to a predetermined angular position and they will be held in such relative easel-like arrangement by the friction of the tab **20** in the slot **24** and in between the flap **11***a*

and the panel 11. If the structure is again folded by pressure applied on the diverging lower ends of the panels 11 and 12, the brace 16 will be automatically moved downwardly and forwardly with the fold line 18 moving downwardly through the opening 21 toward its lower edge and thereby pulling the tab 20 downwardly to cause it to be retracted through the slot 24 and between the flap 11*a* and panel 11 to the retracted condition shown in FIGURE 3.

It will be apparent that the projecting portion of the extended tab 20 may contain advertising or other desired printed matter. When the structure is folded, the tab is in retracted condition thereby providing the laminated structure illustrated in FIGURES 3 and 4 which is of minimum area. This will greatly facilitate packaging and mailing of the unit. When the supporting structure is unfolded, the tab 20 is automatically extended to a position where the printed matter is displayed in an attractive and readily visible manner and simultaneously the brace 16 is arranged in angular position between the panels 11 and 12 to provide an easel-like supporting arrangement.

According to the provisions of the patent statutes, the principles of this invention have been explained and have been illustrated and described in what is now considered to represent the best embodiment. However, it is to be understood that, within the scope of the appended claims, the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically illustrated and described.

Having thus described this invention, what is claimed is:

1. A supporting structure of the easel type comprising a front supporting member and a rear supporting member hinged together at a hinge joint adjacent their upper ends for relative swinging movement between folded and supporting positions, a member positoned between the front and rear supporting members and slidable through said hinge joint between a downwardly retracted position substantially within the hinged supporting members when in folded condition and in extended position upwardly beyond said hinge joint when said supporting members are in supporting position, and a brace connected between said supporting members and operatively connected to said slidable member to move it to said extended and retracted positions automatically as a result of the unfolding and folding of said supporting members.

2. An easel-type support comprising a front support panel and a rear support panel hinged toegther at one end at a hinge joint, a tab portion disposed on one of said panels for guided sliding movement between a retracted position and an extended position relative to said hinge joint, and a brace connected to the other of said panels and to said tab portion for moving it between said extended and retracted positions as a result of relative movement of said panels about said hinge joint.

3. An easel-type support comprising a flat front panel and flat rear panel connected together at an upper hinge fold line, one of said panels having a flap turned upwardly over its inner surface, said flap having a transverse opening formed therein of substantial height, a tab slidably mounted between said flap and its cooperating panel and having an upper end extending upwardly through a slot in said hinge fold line and a lower end extending into the area of said opening, and a brace hingedly connected to the inner face of the other panel and extending through said opening where it is connected by a fold line to the said lower end of said tab.

No references cited.

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