UNIVERSAL FOLDABLE FRAME MOULDING AND PROCESS

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ABSTRACT
An L-shaped moulding and process for forming a completed frame or protective liner for an art or other object from a single unitary piece which may be decorated, and folded to surround the perimeter and affix at the back.
UNIVERSAL FOLDABLE FRAME MOULDING AND PROCESS

REFERENCES CITED

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patent No.</th>
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</tr>
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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

It is commonly known that picture frame mouldings are made from woods, metals, or composite materials in predefined colors and finishes, most of which are cut by a framer with specialized equipment such as a miter saw or chopper, into any lengths. Currently there are no alternatives to employing miter saws or choppers to cut these materials into the desired length segments particularly if the required length is non-standard. Once cut to the desired lengths, joining the severed moulding pieces into a frame unit is carried out using specialized vises to hold the individual segments while glues, nails, staples, or other joining devices are applied to the ends in order to hold the frame segments securely together.

There are designs using extruded thermoplastic resin based moulding to create picture frames such as U.S. Pat. No. 4,399,625 or U.S. Pat. No. 4,424,637 but they are limited in scope by their requirement for predefined depths, widths, lengths or other attribute, in these cases the art assembly thickness must be less than that of the C-shaped or U-shaped channel openings of these mouldings.

Prior inventions have used materials with flexible transparent extrude thermoplastic being one embodiment. A side view of the front face 11a.

FIELD OF INVENTION

This invention relates to the framing of pictures or other objects having common or unusual shapes and sizes using an I-shaped moulding.

OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

Therefore an object of this invention is to provide a moulding that does not require it to be severed into length or width segments thereby avoiding the need to reopen the individual segments back into a frame unit, a further object of this invention is to provide a moulding that will accommodate assemblies or objects having variable lengths, widths, depths, and angles that may form a completed picture frame structure or protective cover or liner by anyone, with or without prior picture framing knowledge or picture frame joining equipment.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is comprised of a continuous moulding that may be folded to construct a completed picture frame.
[0018] An array of ruts or grooves on one side is shown by 11b through 11c facilitate straight line bends or folds by causing weakened areas in moulding 11 and may be painted or otherwise decorated and secured in place which may be in the form of double-sided pressure sensitive adhesive type or other means at any location along a surface to adhere to itself and any other surface. 12 shows a fold point for this embodiment. Rabbet area 13 receives an assortment of assembly or sub-assembly types, depths, and sizes to be covered and protected by 11.

[0019] FIG. 2 Bottom cutaway view of continuous moulding outlined in FIG. 1 folded around the perimeter an assembly. 21 shows a cutaway view of moulding 11. A side view of the front face 21a. Bend or fold in rut or groove area shown between 11b through 11c after bending and folding at a chosen weak point in moulding 21. Glazing 26, optional spacer 27 as described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,475,296 or 4,709,495 available in various depths and materials may be deployed on both sides of the glazing, one or more optional window mat board with beveled opening 28, mat board backing that supports the art object 29, and cardboard or other final backing material 20 serving as a structural member and dust cover, combine to comprise a typical art assembly for this embodiment but is not limited to this number of objects or thickness of the assembly.

[0020] FIG. 3 Front face view of FIG. 2 shows the moulding face 31a as opaque with the top and right faces of the moulding removed. 34 shows the face view of a 90 degree bend 22 which is accomplished by trimming 31a to a 90 degree miter from the vertex at 32 and removing the material between the miter trims yet allow the moulding to remain continuous. Glazing 36 is invisible from this view, window mat board with beveled opening 38, spacer 37, and mat board backing that supports art object 39.

[0021] FIG. 4 Rear isometric view of FIG. 3 shows back of framed assembly having 2 sides of moulding 11 removed. 41 shows trailing edge back section of 11 after bending or folding at 42 and miter trimmed at 44 with material removed. 42 shows 90 degree bends or folds at 22 or 32 located at the rear surface edge of 40. 44 shows 4, 45 degree miter trims of 41 from the vertexes at 42 with material removed between the miter trims and allow the moulding to remain continuous. Inside surface of 41 shown at 45, edges of glazing 46, spacer 47, window mat board 38, mat board backing 39, and final cardboard backing can be seen from this view.

1. A reusable L-shaped frame moulding having ruts or grooves along the side.
2. A foldable moulding to complete a unitary frame around the perimeter of an assembly which may include but not limited to glazing, spacers, art objects, boards, and backing materials.

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