

R. D. MORGAN.
PICTURE FRAME.

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1,334,780.

Patented Mar. 23, 1920.

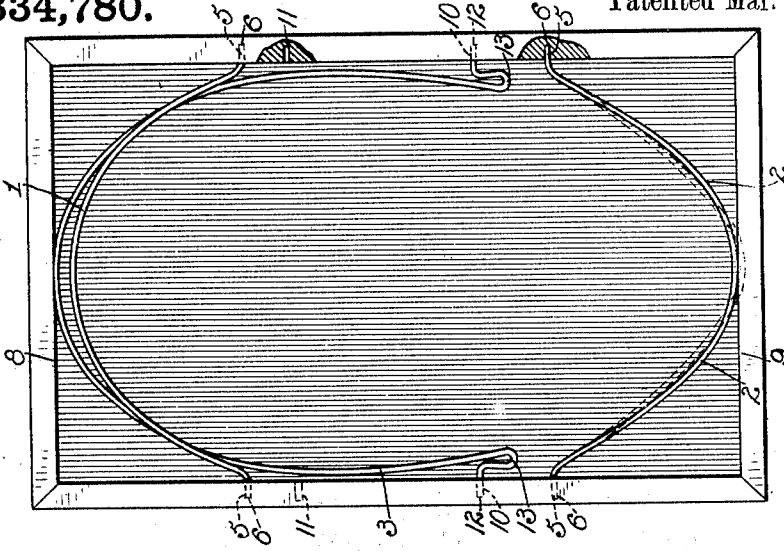


Fig. 2.

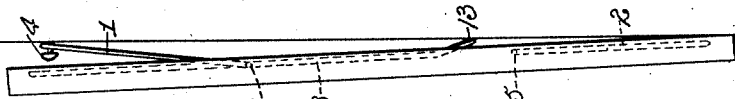


Fig. 3.

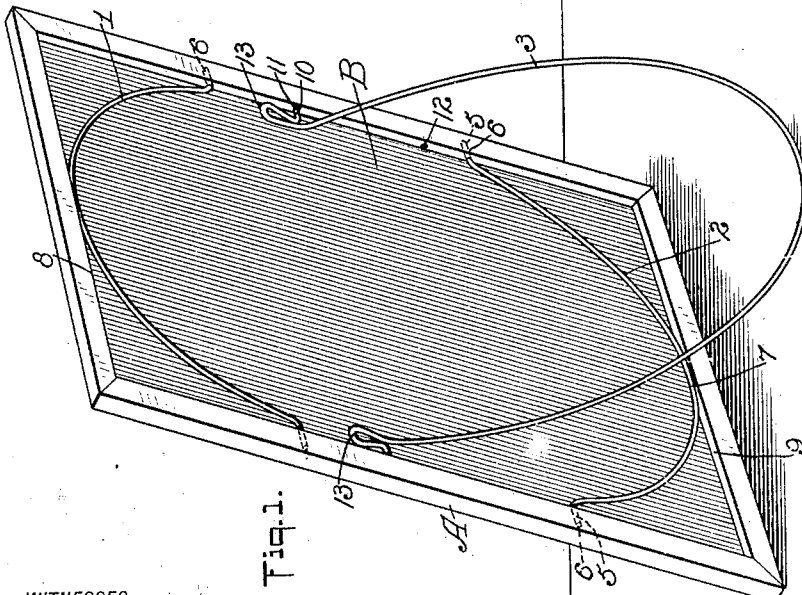


Fig. 1.

WITNESSES

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PICTURE-FRAME.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RODNEY D. MORGAN, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of East Rockaway, in the county of Nassau and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Picture-Frame, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to picture frames or similar holders for articles to be exhibited, and the invention has to deal particularly with means for clamping a picture or article in the frame or holder and with means for supporting the frame or holder as an easel, or for hanging the frame or holder on a wall.

The invention has for its general objects to provide a holder of the class described having a novel arrangement of picture-retaining clamps in the form of bails so arranged that they can be easily and quickly locked or unlocked to enable a picture to be fastened in a frame or holder without the use of brads or other securing means, the picture retaining clamps being in the form of wire bails pivotally and detachably engaged with the sides of the frame or holder and adapted to have an interlocking frictional engagement with the top and bottom of the frame, the upper bail being capable of use as a hanger when the picture frame is to be hung on a wall.

A further object of the invention is the provision of an additional wire bail which is adjustably connected with the sides of the picture frame in such a manner that the additional bail can be used as a leg when the picture is to be supported easel-fashion, and when the picture is to be hung on the wall, the leg-forming bail is adjusted to a position so as to act as a picture-retaining clamp in place of the top clamp when the same is employed as a hanger.

With such objects in view, and others which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention comprises various novel features of construction and arrangement of parts which will be set forth with particularity in the following description and claims appended hereto.

In the accompanying drawing which illustrates one embodiment of the invention and wherein similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views,

Figure 1 is a rear view of a picture showing the same supported easel-fashion;

Fig. 2 is a rear view showing the picture in condition for hanging on the wall; and

Fig. 3 is a side view of Fig. 2, showing the picture supported on a wall.

Referring to the drawing, A designates a holder or frame of ordinary construction for holding a picture or equivalent article. The picture or article B is set into the opening or receptacle of the frame and is retained in place by upper and lower spring wire clamps in the form of bails 1 and 2 when the picture is supported easel-fashion, as shown in Fig. 1, and when the frame is hung on the wall, as shown in Fig. 3, the picture is retained in the frame by the clamp 2, and a third clamp 3, which is in the form of a wire bail and is adapted to take the place of the clamp 1, which latter acts as a hanger to engage a nail 4 or other suspending means, as shown in Fig. 3. The clamps or bails 1 and 2 are of similar construction and each is composed of a bowed wire having its extremities bent outwardly into pivots 5 which are disposed in a common line and are adapted to engage in apertures 6 in the side walls of the picture receptacle of the frame. The apertures 6 for both picture clamps 1 and 2 are the same distance from the top and bottom of the picture frame, and the middle portion 7 of each picture-retaining clamp or bail is adapted to engage the upper and lower walls 8 and 9 of the picture receptacle of the frame. In order to be engaged with these walls the wires must be sprung out of their normal curvature, as indicated by the lower wire 2. In Fig. 2 the dotted lines represent the normal condition of this bail, but in order to lock it in picture-retaining position it is necessary to compress the bail so as to interlock with the picture frame, as shown by the full-line position. It will be noted that the bowed or curved portion of each clamp lies wholly to one side of a line passing through the pivots 6. This means that either of the retainers can be used as a hanger, so that no special care need be exercised as to which part of the frame will be the top or bottom when placing a picture therein. In order to bring about the interlocking engagement between the middle of the wire clamps 1 and 2 and the picture frame, the distance between the apertures 6 and the adjacent end of the

frame is less than the normal distance between the middle of the clamp and a line passing through the pivots thereof, and consequently the clamps will be under tension
5 when in locked position, as shown in Fig. 1.

The wire bail 3 is longer than the clamps 1 and 2 and it has its extremities bent into outwardly extending pivots 10 engageable in either of the sets of apertures 11 and 12
10 in the side walls of the picture-receiving opening of the frame. These sets of apertures are located intermediate the apertures 6 for the clamps 1 and 2, and the set 12 is the same distance from the center of the
15 picture frame as is the set 11. Adjacent the pivots 10 the wire bail 3 is formed with stop-forming loops or bends 13 which lie in a plane making an obtuse angle with the plane of the major portion of the bail 3, so
20 that when the bail 3 is employed as an easel leg, as in Fig. 1, the stops 13 will engage the back of the picture or article in the frame and serve to brace the leg 3 in its proper relation to the picture frame. When
25 used as a supporting leg, as in Fig. 1, the pivots 10 engage in the upper apertures 11, but by engaging these pivots in the apertures 12, as in Fig. 2, the bail 3 can be employed as a picture-retaining clamp to
30 take the place of the clamp 1 when the latter is employed as a hanger, it being understood that the middle portion of the bail 3 engages the picture frame in the same manner as the clamp 1. It will thus be seen
35 that a picture or other article can be retained in a frame or holder without the ordinary fasteners, and that the picture frame is equipped with means whereby it can be supported as an easel, or can be hung on a
40 wall, and whereby the bail can be easily and quickly adjusted.

From the foregoing description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, the advantages of the construction and
45 method of operation will be readily understood by those skilled in the art to which the invention appertains, and while I have described the principle of operation, together with the device which I now consider
50 to be the best embodiment thereof, I desire to have it understood that the device shown

is merely illustrative and that such changes may be made when desired as fall within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, I 55 claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. The combination of a holder having an opening for receiving a picture or the like, picture-retaining clamps pivotally connected 60 with the opposite walls of the opening and having interlocking engagement with the other walls, either of the clamps being convertible for use as a hanger for the holder, and means adjustably connected with the 65 holder at points intermediate the clamps for use as an easel leg when in one position and as a picture-retaining clamp when in a different position when one of the said first-mentioned clamps is used as a hanger. 70

2. The combination of a holder having an opening for receiving a picture or the like, picture-retaining clamps pivotally connected 75 with the opposite walls of the opening and having interlocking engagement with the other walls, either of the clamps being convertible for use as a hanger for the holder, the walls with which the clamps are engaged being provided with two sets of apertures 80 disposed the same distance at opposite sides of the middle of the holder, and a wire bent into a bail and having its extremities formed into alining pivots engageable in either set of apertures and formed with stop lugs adjacent the pivots, whereby said bail may 85 form when in one position an easel leg and may serve as a picture-retaining clamp when in the other position.

3. The combination of a holder having an opening for receiving a picture or the like, 90 the opposite walls of the opening having two sets of apertures disposed the same distance from the middle, and a wire bail having its extremities formed to engage in either set of apertures and its middle portion engageable with the third wall of the opening while in one set of apertures, to 95 permit the bail to act as a picture-retaining clamp, the said bail serving as an easel leg when engaged with the other set of apertures. 100

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