Oct. 11, 1932. M. L. WEBSTER 1,881,986

DISPLAY CASE

Filed March 2, 1931

Fig. 1.

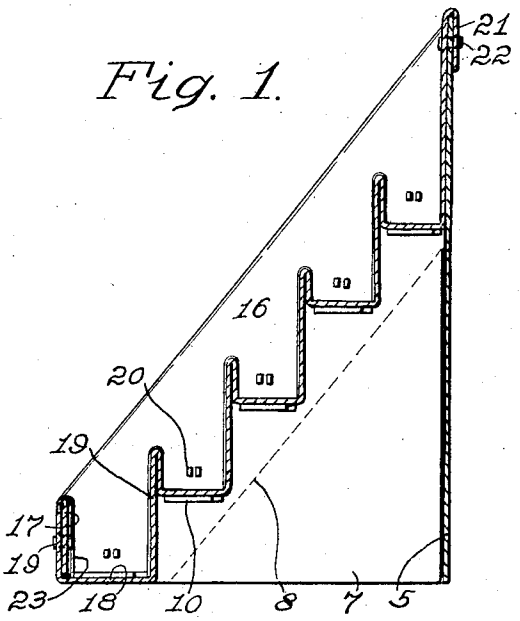


Fig. 2.

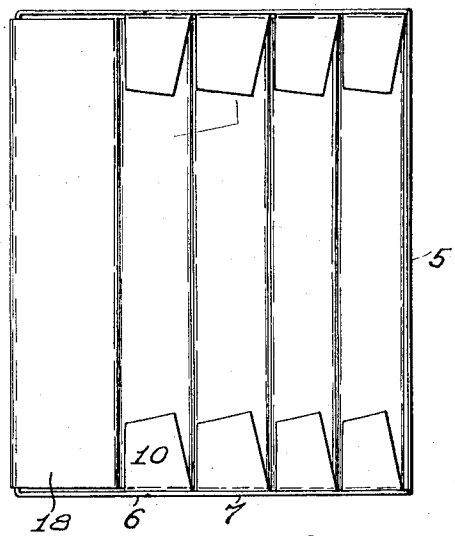
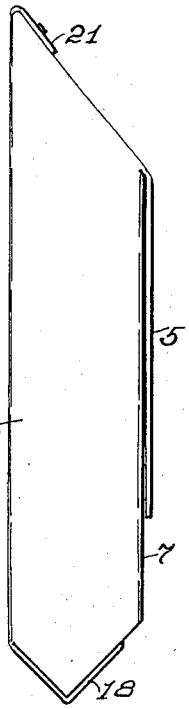


Fig. 5.



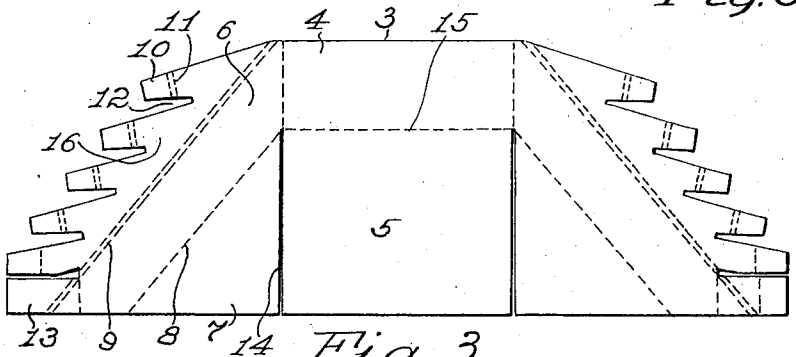


Fig. 3.

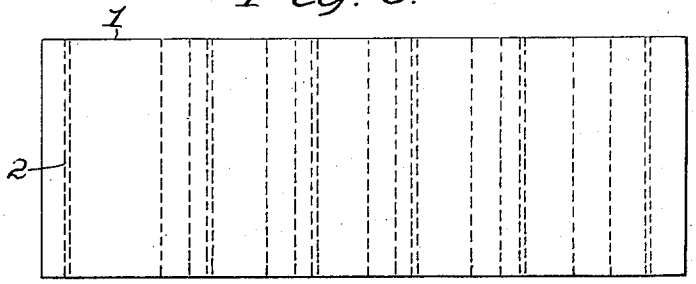


Fig. 4.

INVENTOR
M. L. Webster,
BY
G. C. Kennedy.
ATTORNEY

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

MELVIN L. WEBSTER, OF INDEPENDENCE, IOWA

DISPLAY CASE

Application filed March 2, 1931. Serial No. 519,623.

My invention relates to improvements in display cases, and the object of my improvement is to furnish a case of simple and inexpensive construction, relatively strong, and having certain collapsible or foldable parts to contract its volume for space saving shipping purposes.

Another object of my improvements is to build the structure of a minimum number of parts for labor saving manufacture, and to shape those parts in a manner whereby they may be readily assembled and interlockingly secured together to provide a relatively rigid construction when made from light inexpensive material, such as fiber board or the like.

These objects I have successfully accomplished in actual reduction to practice by the means which are hereinafter described and claimed, and which are illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which Fig. 1 is a medial vertical longitudinal section of my improved shipping and display case as extended. Fig. 2 is an under plan view thereof. Figs. 3 and 4 are plans of the two structural elements of said case before bending and folding. Fig. 5 is a side elevation of the case as collapsed for shipping or storing purposes.

Fiber board, plain or corrugated in structure, is used very generally for the construction of shipping or display cases, being cheap and adapted for more or less temporary use while being relatively strong when the construction is well braced and connected. Other materials may be employed, however, in the structure covered by my invention, and thus will not depart therefrom.

My invention herein constitutes improvements upon my United States Patent No. 1,460,185, dated June 26, 1923, for a contractible display and shipping case.

My improved case is assembled from but two planar members shown in Figs. 3 and 4, preferably of corrugated but may be of plain sheet fiber board. The sheet or member 1 is oblong and is transversely creased at a number of places 2 in either single or double lines.

The sheet 3 shown in Fig. 3 has a pair of like transverse slits 14 from its longer longitudinal edge, equally spaced from its middle and terminating inwardly at a partial longitudinal crease 15 which also terminates therewith. The slits 14, however, are continued across the sheet by creases for bending purposes. From the inner ends of the slits 14 the end parts of the sheet at 7 are creased obliquely outwardly at 8, and parallel to said creases 8 the end portions or surfaces at 6 are further creased in doubled lines 9 obliquely at 9, also for bending and folding purposes. The opposite ends of the sheet 3 are shaped alike but in relatively reversed positions, by cutting, to provide a plurality of slightly oblique tongues or flap parts 10, with one oblong longitudinal flap 13, on each end of the sheet. The flaps 10 are transversely creased at 11 doubly for folding over purposes, and the flaps are separated by wedge-shaped spaces 12, so that the flaps 10 are diminished gradually outwardly to straight ends or terminations. Said slits 14, and the creases 15, 8, 9 and 11 therefore serve as bounding means for bending, folding or otherwise, the parts 4, 5, 7, 6, and 16 and terminations of the flaps, into separate areas or wall parts which are to be mechanically associated respectively with different areas or parts of the other sheet 1, in a manner to be described, in the constituting of the completed case shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 5.

As shown in said Fig. 1, the oblong sheet 1 at its respective transverse single or doubled creases 2 is bent or folded to provide a plurality of steps 18 with raised front walls, the first front wall having a folded over reinforcing flap part 17 secured by cementing or by clips 19 together. The rear vertical part 19 forms at the same time the rear wall or riser for each step 18 but projects above the next successive step and is folded over to thus provide the next succeeding front wall for the latter step. The rear wall part 19 for the last step in succession is wider than the other risers and is folded over rearwardly in a flap 21 and secured by cementing or by clips 22 to the upper margin of the top part 4 of the other sheet 3.

The sheet 3 is bent at right angles at the

slits 14 and their creased continuations transversely, opposing the end parts 6 and 16 to the ends of the steps and walls 18 and 19 contactingly. The parts 16 are then bent over along the doubled line creases 9 inwardly and foldingly with their tabs or flaps 10 then bent over along the doubled creases 11 under and to contact with the under faces of the step parts 18 except the foremost step, and cemented, pasted or stapled thereon as shown in Fig. 1. The flap 10 next to the flap 13 is bent over and cemented or stapled to the upper surface of the foremost step 18, and the oblong flap 13 is bent over inwardly in each case and inserted between the folded parts of the foremost wall 19 and its inwardly turned flap 23 as shown at 23 in Fig. 1 where the ends of the flap 17 at 23 are spread enough for the purpose. The case is thus completed and in extended position. The triangular parts 7 of the side walls 6 are bendable along the creases 8 inwardly against or nearly to the rear angles of the steps, and the rear wall part 5 then swung bendingly at the crease 15 against the parts 7, to collapse the case with its rear parts approximately parallel with the front inclined edges of the side walls 16. In this collapsed condition, the cases may be stowed in piles in a minimum space for storage or transportation.

The compartments thus provided along the steps 18 may be used to receive parcels of goods or other things in convenient segregation.

The two sheets 1 and 3 may be stamped out by machinery, so that construction is expedited and rendered inexpensive, and the flaps 10 and 13 are secure means for fastening the parts of the case together, and with little labor cost, while the structure is of maximum strength against crushing.

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

A display case of the character described, composed of strips of suitable material shaped, cut and secured together, one strip being rectangular bent, folded at places upon itself to provide a series of relatively inclined compartments, the other strip being cut transversely in places, bent in other places and having projecting end tabs to be secured to the compartments, said other strip also providing certain walls for the compartments and a part thereof between said transverse cuts serving as an easel support for the case hinged thereon to collapse thereagainst for shipping or storage purposes.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

MELVIN L. WEBSTER.