

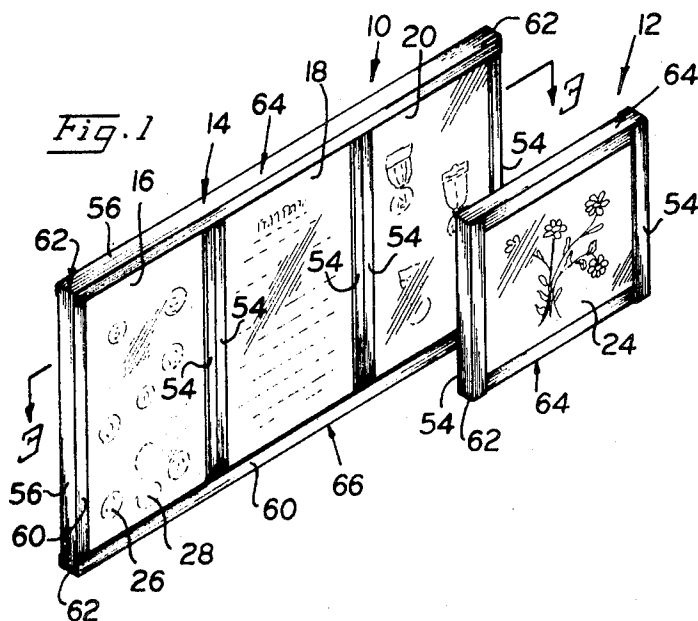
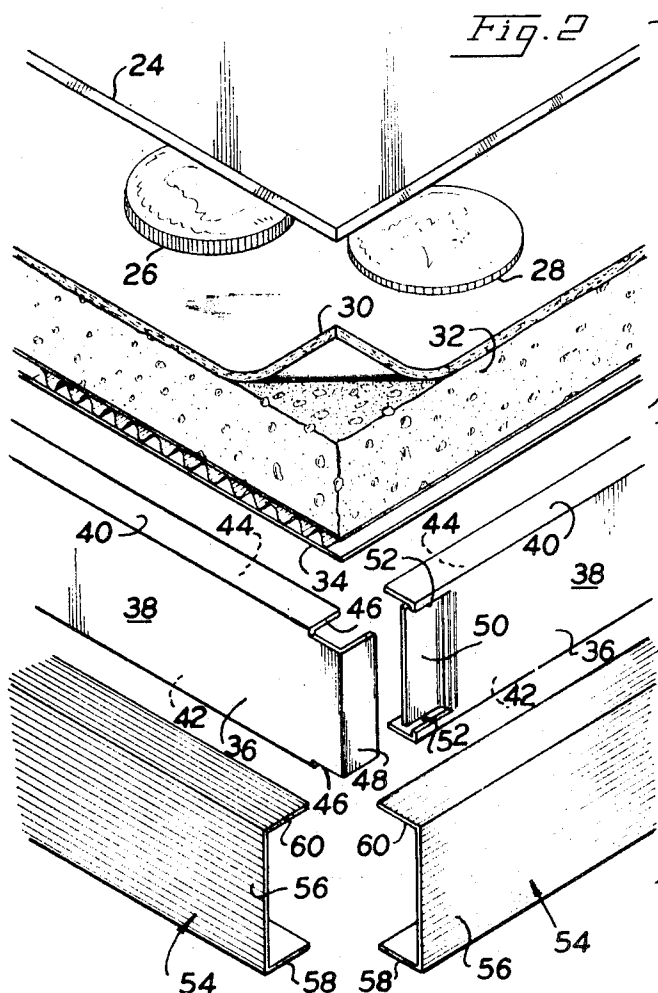
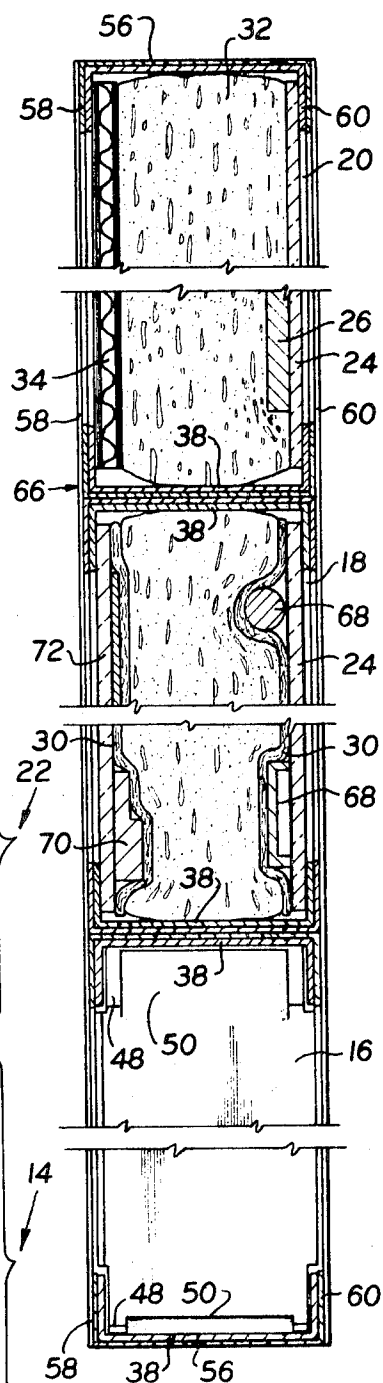
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FRAMED DISPLAY

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FRAMED DISPLAY

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A framed product display in which the product being displayed is mounted on a yielding or resilient body which is confined between a transparent front panel and a rigid rear panel within a frame formed of channel-type bordering frame members, the urgency of the yielding or resilient body being effective to both press the product against the transparent front panel and also hold the individual parts of the assembly in place within the bordering frame members.

The present invention relates to product displays, and more particularly to an easily assembled construction for framing a product being displayed and, as a consequence, providing the resulting display with a desirable, attractive appearance.

There is a need for an easily assembled construction for displaying products which, although generally flat, have some depth or height. Examples of such products are coins, medals and like items. To make a display of these products, such as, for example, a coin collection, it is presently necessary to attach the coins, adhesively or in some convenient manner, to a surface of a display board or panel in a frame behind a glass panel. The resulting display is not particularly noteworthy in appearance and, in any event, requires familiarity with framing techniques and procedures.

Broadly, it is an object of the present invention to provide an improved framed product display overcoming the foregoing and other shortcomings of the prior art. Specifically, it is an object to provide a product display which, with little effort and dexterity, is readily mounted in a frame and has an attractive, finished appearance.

A framed display demonstrating objects and advantages of the present invention includes a yielding or resilient body which, in practice, effectively holds, without adhesive or the like, the product being displayed against a glass panel. The yielding body also supplies the holding force for retaining itself and the product within a peripheral frame which is easily assembled about the product.

The above brief description, as well as further objects, features and advantages of the present invention, will be more fully appreciated by reference to the following detailed description of presently preferred, but nonetheless illustrative embodiments in accordance with the present invention, when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of two typical product display embodiments of the present invention, namely a first embodiment having a display area subdivided into three parts, and a second embodiment having only a single display area;

FIG. 2 is an exploded view, on a greatly enlarged scale, of the various parts which combine to provide the framed display according to the present invention; and

FIG. 3 is a plan view, on an enlarged scale and in section taken along line 3—3 of FIG. 1, illustrating further structural features of the framed display.

Reference is now made to the drawing, and in particular to FIG. 1, wherein a multi-display embodiment 10

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and a single display embodiment 12 of a framed display according to the present invention are illustrated. The parts which make up the framed displays 10 and 12 are identical and thus, for brevity's sake, description will be restricted to the multi-display embodiment 10. This display, as will be described in greater detail herein, is particularly advantageous for displaying objects, such as coins, metals and the like and includes, to this end, a rigid peripheral frame 14 which bounds either one or more display compartments 16, 18 and 20. The displayed products are held in a favorable display position within each of these compartments. Specifically, frame 14 is readily assembled into a rigid construction providing the display compartments 16, 18 and 20, it being one of the important objects of the present invention that the assembly procedure be simple and readily easy to achieve without any particular skill or dexterity being required by the user.

The construction of the frame display 10 is perhaps best understood from a consideration of the FIG. 2 in which there is an exploded view of the various components which are utilized for its construction. In the preferred embodiment illustrated in FIG. 2, these components include a product mounting assembly, generally designated 22, which occupies an operative display position defined within the peripheral frame 14. Specifically, assembly 22 is comprised, in order of assembly, of a transparent front panel 24 which may be glass or plastic. Next, is the product being displayed which may be a single object or several objects such as the coins 26 and 28 which are advantageously displayed on a felt or similar soft material pad 30. Functioning as a resilient backing for the framed display is a yieldable body 32, of rectangular shape and size equal to that of the display compartment in which it is to be contained which, in the illustrated embodiment, is compartment 16. Resilient or yielding body 32 may be fabricated of an appropriate elastomeric material or a foam plastic or the like which is capable of being compressed from a large initial volume into a smaller volume and which, as a result of this compression, exerts an opposite resisting outward force or urgency to return to its initial larger volume. It is this outward force or urgency of the body 32 which is effectively used to press the display products 26 and 28 into display contact against the inner surface of the transparent panel 24 and which maintains these products in this advantageous display position. Completing the assembly 22 is a rigid rear panel 34 which may be a fluted cardboard, a decorative opaque plastic panel or similar material. Although not shown in FIG. 2, rear panel 34 can also be transparent, like the front panel 24, so that additional products, also displayed against a felt pad can be arranged in display position adjacent the undersurface of the body 32 and seen through the rear opening of the frame 14.

In addition to the assembly 22, the framed display 10 also includes the already noted peripheral frame 14. Frame 14, in turn, includes identically constructed inner frame members, individually and collectively designated 36. Structurewise, each frame member 36 is substantially U-shaped in cross section and has a central wall 38, which actually bounds each of the previously noted display compartments and depending marginal wall portions 40 and 42 extending laterally of the central wall and cooperating with it to bound an opening 44. In the assembled condition of the frame 14, each opening 44 is in facing relation to the display compartment which is bounded by the frame members 36. Additionally, each frame member 36 has, at opposite ends, cooperating inter-fitting connecting means. Thus, at one end, each frame member 36 has end sections of each of its lateral walls 40 and 42 removed and the end length segment 48 of the central wall 38 turned or bent inward to form a hook-like configuration as illustrated. At its other end, each

member 36 has an end segment 50 of its central wall 38 slightly recessed to form opposite notches 52 which, in practice, are adapted to receive in an interfitting relation the hook segment 48. In this manner, four frame members 36 are readily interlocked end to end into a generally rigid rectangular frame in which each frame member opening 44 is in facing inward relation to the display compartment formed by the interconnected frame members 36.

The recommended procedure for assembling the frame 14 is to first achieve interlocking relation of a pair of adjacent frame members 36 so that a corner of the inner frame which bounds the display compartment is constructed. Next, the user then merely compresses the assembly 22 to a height which is less than the distance between the laterally extending depending walls 40 and 42 and then inserts a corner of the assembly 22 within the completed corner provided by the interconnected frame members 38. That is, the edges of the assembly 22 which form a corner of this assembly are projected into the openings 44 of the two frame members 36 which are joined together in a corner construction. Once this is achieved, the user merely releases the assembly 22 with the result that the urgency exerted by the yielding body 32 forces the peripheral edges of the rigid rear panel 34 and also of the glass front panel 24 into holding engagement against each of the depending walls 40 and 42. The inner frame construction formed by the frame members 36 is then completed about the two remaining sides of the assembly 22, the user in doing so merely connecting together the cooperating connecting structures 48 and 52 of the frame members 36.

Once the inner frame portion or construction of frame 14 is completed, frame 14 is, in turn, completed by an outer assembly of frame members, herein individually and collectively designated 54. Each outer frame member 54, like each inner frame member 36, is substantially U-shaped in cross section and is formed with a comparatively wide central wall 56 and with laterally extending walls 58 and 60. Frame members 54 are preferably fabricated from an elongated extrusion of aluminum, or similar material, being cut to size from the elongated extrusion. The outer or visible surface of each frame member 54 preferably has decorative markings thereon or is otherwise finished so as to contribute to a favorable appearance in the framed display 10. In practice, each frame member 54 is mounted about a cooperating inner frame member 36 and, as best shown in FIG. 1, provides a flush construction with a neat appearance at each corner 62 of the framed display 10. Specifically, the outer frame members 54 effectively mask the interlocking structure 48 and 52 of the inner frame members 36.

Additionally, the outer frame members 54 are useful in joining together several inner frame constructions, such as those which provide the display compartments 16, 18 and 20. That is, after completion of three separate display units 16, 18 and 20, each complete in and of themselves with appropriate products in display position behind the front or viewing panel of each, a composite display 10 is constructed using, as clearly illustrated in FIG. 1, comparatively long outer frame members 64 and 66 to hold the three displays in side by side relation. The usual length frame members 54 are used for the outer, short dimension edges of the composite display 10, and also for the abutting, internal edges of the three displays 16, 18 and 20. All of the frames, both of the long and short lengths 64, 66 and 54, respectively, are maintained in place by being force fit about the interconnected inner frame members 38.

From the foregoing description, it should be readily appreciated that there has been described a versatile, easily assembled arrangement of parts which effectively cooperate with each other to form a framed display for a great variety of products. Moreover, as best illustrated

in FIG. 3, the products can be displayed from one side of the display compartment as illustrated in connection with display compartment 20 or, as illustrated in connection with the middle display compartment 18, suitable products 68 can be displayed from one side of the compartment while other products 70, relate or otherwise, can be displayed through a rear glass viewing panel 72 from the opposite side of the display compartment.

A latitude of modification, change and substitution is intended in the foregoing disclosure and in some instances some features of the invention will be employed without a corresponding use of other features. An example of a modification from the disclosed embodiments, but one which nevertheless is intended to be within the contemplated scope of the invention is a framed display wherein the resilient body 32 is dispensed with and the function thereof achieved by the pad 30. That is, pad 30 would have the required force-applying characteristic to hold the displayed products in display position against the viewing panel 24 and also to contribute to completing engagement of the marginal edges of the viewing panel 24 against the frame wall 40. This modified display would, for example, be aptly embodied in a table in which the table body or support would occupy the position of the resilient body 32, the just noted resilient pad, similar to pad 30, would be supported thereon, and an appropriate display article, which could even be a flat photograph, would be displayed under a viewing panel 24 on top of the pad. The pad resiliency would provide the friction fit of the frame members 38 about the table side edges.

What is claimed is:

1. A framed display comprising plural frame members operatively interconnected end to end so as to bound a display compartment of a prescribed size, each frame member having a central wall in facing relation to said display compartment and opposite depending marginal walls extending along the marginal areas of the opposite front and rear planes of said display compartment, display-mounting means including a partially compressed resilient body of substantially the prescribed size of said display compartment contained within said frame members between said depending marginal walls thereof, and at least one viewing panel mounted in said front plane of said display compartment in an interposed position between said partially compressed resilient body and said frame depending marginal walls, whereby the urgency of said partially compressed resilient body maintains said viewing panel in place within said frame and also the subject matter being displayed on said display-mounting means in display position against said viewing panel, and decorative outer frame members adapted to be mounted about said operatively interconnected frame members so as to mask said interconnecting construction thereof.
2. A framed display as defined in claim 1 including a rear panel effective to confine said resilient body within said display compartment.
3. A framed display as defined in claim 1 including a second viewing panel mounted in said rear plane of said display compartment such that subject matter is adapted to be displayed from both sides of said display compartment.
4. A framed display as defined in claim 1 including a plurality of said framed displays arranged in side-by-side relation, and a border of a plurality of said outer frame members substantially equal in length to the perimetral extent of said side-by-side arrangement of said plurality of framed displays, said outer frame members frictionally engaging the outer perimeter of said operatively interconnected

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frame members of said side-by-side arrangement of said plurality of said framed displays to retain the same in their side-by-side arrangement.

5. A framed display as defined in claim 4

said outer frame members including opposite depending marginal walls at least substantially obscuring the respective walls of said operatively interconnected frame members to effect a decorative appearance for said display.

6. A framed display comprising

a display arrangement having a variable thickness, plural frame members having cooperating connecting means at opposite ends operatively interconnected end to end so as to form a border for said display arrangement,

each said frame member having a central wall and opposite end walls depending therefrom spaced from each other a prescribed extent less than the maximum attainable thickness of said display arrangement, whereby the marginal edges of said display arrangement are adapted to have an engaging fit between said depending walls of said bordering frame members, and

decorative outer frame members substantially coextensive with said operatively interconnected frame members and adapted to be mounted about said operatively interconnected frame members so as to mask said interconnecting construction thereof.

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7. A framed display as defined in claim 6

wherein said display arrangement includes a compressible body which provides said variable thickness to said display arrangement.

8. A framed display as defined in claim 6

including at least two framed displays arranged in side-by-side relation, and a border of at least two said outer frame members, each substantially equal in length to the large dimension of the perimetral extent of said side-by-side arrangement of said plurality of framed displays, said outer frame members frictionally engaging the outer perimeter of said side-by-side arrangement of said plurality of said frame displays to retain these displays in their side-by-side arrangement.

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