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SELF-OPENING GREETING CARDS

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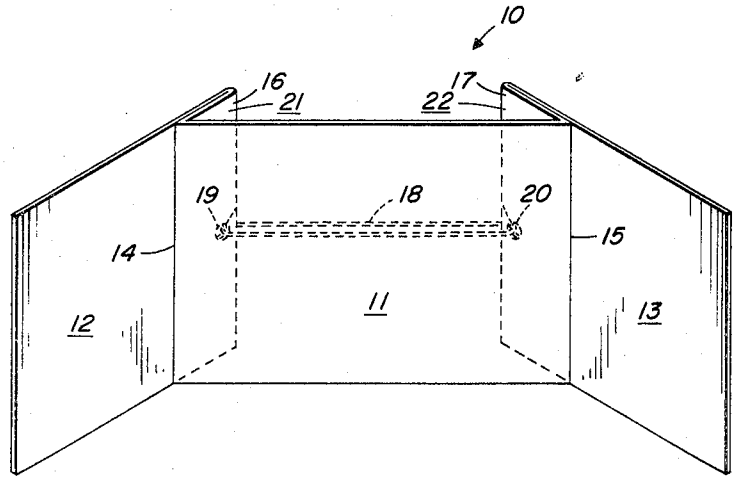


FIG 1

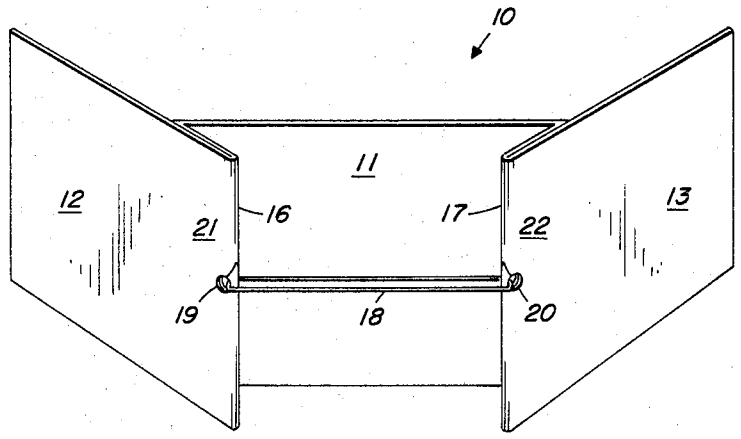


FIG 2

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SELF-OPENING GREETING CARDS

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention shows a self-opening greeting card. The card is constructed to have a main center surface and two side surfaces. A resilient member connects the two side surfaces so that the card automatically opens upon removal from an envelope and remains open in its unconfined condition.

This invention relates generally to greeting cards and particularly to self-opening greeting cards which automaticaly open upon removal from the envelope in which they are mailed.

A large majority of the greeting cards, sympathy cards and other types of cards available on the market today have messages printed on the inside as well as the outside of the card. It is therefore necessary for the recipient to open the card upon its removal from the envelope. Because the card ordinarily received must be opened manually it would be a pleasant surprise to receive a card which opens automatically and unexpectedly upon its removal from the envelope.

Recipients of greeting cards frequently arrange the cards in a decorative manner on tables, mantels, etc. In making such arrangements the cards are ordinarily partially opened to enable them to remain standing without a supporting means. The card described herein is capable of remaining open and easily stands while revealing the primary portion of the greeting.

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide a greeting card which automatically opens upon its removal from the envelope in which it is received.

It is another object to provide such an envelope which is made of a unitary piece of foldable material.

It is another object to provide such a card with a resilient member which causes the card to open automatically upon removal from an envelope.

It is another object to provide such a card which easily stands in an open position to provide a decorative object.

Further objects, features, and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following description and claims when read in view of the acompanying drawings wherein like numbers indicate like parts and in which:

FIGURE 1 shows a front view of the invention; and

FIGURE 2 shows a rear view of the invention.

Referring to FIGURE 1, the reference numeral **10** indicates the automatically opening greeting card which constitutes this invention. The card is formed of a single unitary piece of material which can be cardboard or heavy gauge paper of the type ordinarily used in printing greeting cards. The card could also be composed of a lightweight plastic or any other material which is capable of retaining a printed message or picture. The primary message of the greeting would be printed upon the surface **11** and secondary messages could be printed upon the surfaces **12** and **13**. Alternatively either of the three surfaces, or all three surfaces, could be used to form portions of a calendar. The exact content printed from the invention is not considered to form a part of the invention as it is within the purview of one skilled in the art to

use the invention in manners other than simply for greeting cards or calendars.

The single piece of material is folded backwardly from the primary surface **11** as indicated by reference numerals **14** and **15**. The folds **14** and **15** are perpendicular to the top and bottom of the card. The material is then folded forward as indicated by reference numerals **16** and **17** to thereby form the two side surfaces **12** and **13**. The folds **16** and **17** are parallel to folds **14** and **15**. Folds **16** and **17** therefore create two double-layered areas indicated by **21** and **22**. The double-layered areas are fastened together by glue, stapler, or any other convenient method. As best shown in FIGURE 2 the double-layered areas **21** and **22** respectively contain a hole **19** and **20**. A resilient member, for example, a ruber band or light spring, is stretched between the two holes such that the surfaces **12** and **13** are biased otuwardly from the center surface **11**. The length of the resilient member **18** is such that in its unstreched condition it is shorter than the length of the center surface **11**. When the surfaces **12** and **13** are pressed against surface **11** the resilient member is caused to stretch. Placement in an envelope holds the card in the folded condition. Upon removal from the envelope the card snaps open because of the action of the resilient member. The card can also be opened by replacing the resilient member **18** with separate members which individualy extend from the back of surface **11** to the double-layered areas **21** and **22**.

These members could be individual springs or smaller length rubber bands. The size of the card and its exact proportions are not critical to the operation and any size or configuration is within the scope of the invention.

In the card as shown the bottom portions of **12** and **13** are parallel to the bottom edge of surface **11**. These edges need not be so made and a sloping bottom on surfaces **12** and **13** will cause the card to sit on an angle. Also the folds **14** and **15** need not be parallel and therefore the card can be made more decorative simply by making these folds on a preselected angle.

Although this invention has been described with respect to a particular embodiment thereof, it is not to be so limited, as changes and modifications may be made therein which are within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A self opening greeting card comprising, a first plane surface, a second plane surface pivotably associated with one side of said first plane surface, a third plane surface pivotably associated with another side of said first plane surface, the axis of rotation of said second and third plane surfaces being located at the opposite ends of a center line of said first plane surface, said first, second and third plane surfaces to normally rotate away from said first another for insertion into a containing means, and a stretchable resilient means extending between said second and third plane surfaces for causing said second and third plane surfaces to normaly rotate away from said first surface when said card is removed from said containing means.

2. The greeting card of claim **1** wherein said axis of rotation are substantially parallel.

3. The greeting card of claim **1** wherein said second and third surfaces each include a double layer portion, and said resilient means is connected to said double layer portions.

4. The greeting card of claim **3** wherein said card is formed from a unitary piece of material and said first, second, and third surfaces are configured to form a base portion when said second and third surfaces are extended by said resilient means.

5. The greeting card of claim 2 wherein said axes of rotation respectively coincide with two opposed sides of said first plane surface so that said first plane surface is foldably attached to said second and third plane surfaces.

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