

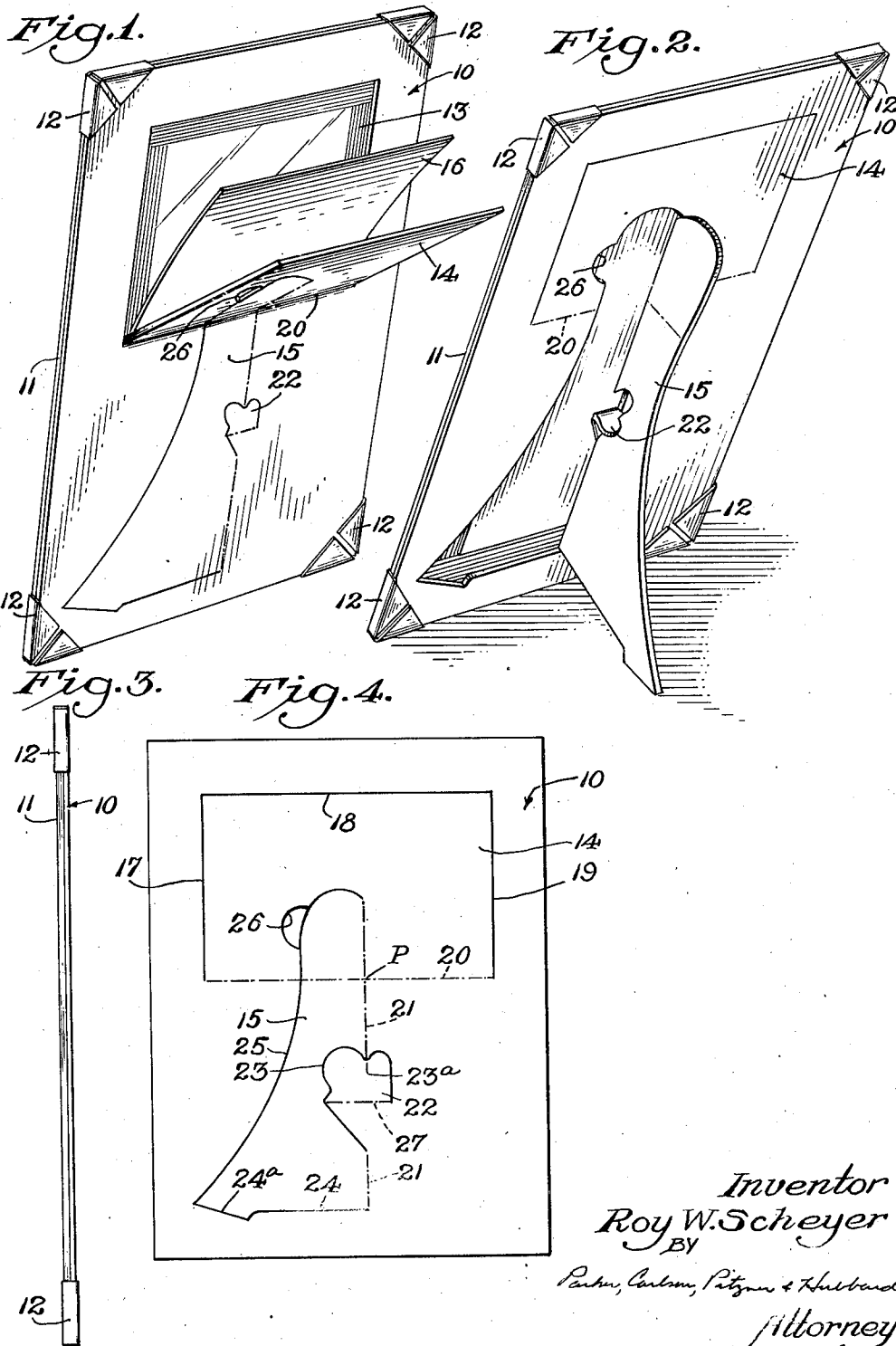
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EASEL BACK FOR PICTURES

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EASEL BACK FOR PICTURES

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2 Claims. (Cl. 40—152.1)

The present invention pertains to a novel easel back for pictures.

The general aim of the invention is to produce an easel back which is extremely simple and low in cost, and which is easy to apply and set up, yet which is rugged in construction.

More specifically, it is an object of the present invention to provide an easel back in which a pocket flap, opened for insertion of a picture, and an easel flap, opened to set up the easel, are interrelated in a novel manner such that the easel flap serves to hold the pocket flap rigidly closed whenever the easel is set up.

Another object is to provide an easel back of the character indicated in the preceding statement of object and which is die cut from but a single piece of sheet material such, for example, as chip board.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent as the following description proceeds, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a framed picture provided with an easel back embodying the present invention, the easel back being shown with its pocket flap open and the picture in the course of insertion.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view similar to Fig. 1 except that the pocket flap is closed and the easel flap opened, supporting the assembly.

Fig. 3 is an edge view of the assembly of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a face view of the blank constituting the easel back.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, an easel back, designated generally as 10, is there shown by way of exemplification of my invention. Although this particular exemplification or preferred embodiment has been shown and described herein in some detail, the invention is susceptible of various modifications and alternative constructions. Consequently, it is to be understood that I do not intend to limit the invention to the specific form disclosed, but intend to cover all modifications and alternative constructions falling within the spirit and scope of the invention as expressed in the appended claims.

In the present instance the easel back 10 is shown as overlaid by a transparent sheet or panel of glass 11 of the same border dimensions as the easel back, and attached to the latter by corner clips 12 of conventional form. Obviously, the glass may be attached to the easel back in any suitable way insofar as the present invention is concerned. The usual opaque mask 13 is sandwiched between the glass and easel back.

The easel back 10 itself is made of sheet material, a variety of which materials, suitable for the present purpose, are available on the market. Chip board or cardboard are desirable because of their low cost. The principal requisites, aside from cost, are that the material be suited for die cutting and creasing or scoring, and that it have sufficient rigidity. For brevity, such material has been referred to herein simply as "foldable board."

The sheet which constitutes the easel back is die cut in the form of a flat blank shown in Fig. 4, and in such manner as to provide two principal flaps 14 and 15 interrelated in a novel manner and for a purpose which will shortly appear.

The flap 14 may be termed a pocket flap, since it is provided for insertion and removal of a picture, such as picture 16 in Fig. 1. For this purpose the flap 14 is rectangular in outline, being outlined by cutting the blank along the lines 17, 18 and 19 and scoring or creasing it along the dot-dash line 20 in Fig. 4. The flap 14 is thus integrally hinged to the body of the easel back 10 along the crease 20 so that it may be swung rearwardly out of the plane of the easel back into the position shown in Fig. 1 for insertion or removal of the picture 16. The flap 14 extends transversely of the blank, preferably across a major portion of the latter's width in order to permit the insertion of a picture of maximum width.

The other principal flap 15 may be termed the easel flap since, when swung outward into a position normal to the plane of the body of the easel back as shown in Fig. 2, it serves to hold the assembly generally upright. This flap 15 is defined by a vertically extending score line or crease 21 interrupted in its mid portion to accommodate the formation of a locking tab 22, the adjacent ends of the crease 21 at the region of interruption being joined by a cut 23. The flap 15 is completed by cutting the blank along the lines 24 and 25. The line 24 is angled as indicated at 24a to provide a foot at the tail end of the easel, so angled with respect to the face of the easel back that the assembly is afforded a stable support when the easel is erected as shown in Fig. 2. The line 25 may be curved as shown to afford a graceful profile for the easel.

Upon inspection of the drawing it will be seen that the creases 20, 21 intersect at point P so that the flaps 14, 15 overlap, the same being constituted in part by a common portion of the sheet. By virtue of this arrangement simultaneous opening of the flaps 14 and 15 is precluded. More particularly, when the easel flap

15 is swung outward to its distended position shown in Fig. 2, it locks and holds the pocket flap 14 in closed position so that the latter affords a solid backing for the inserted picture 16. The forward edge of the distended easel flap 15 is integrally hinged to the central portion of the pocket flap 14 along the upper portion of the crease line 21 and the upper portion of the easel flap is of such rigidity in an edgewise direction that the pocket flap 14 cannot be pulled open while the easel flap is so distended. On the other hand, when the easel flap 15 is folded into its collapsed or flat position in which it conforms to the plane of the body of the easel back, the pocket flap 14 can be readily swung into its open position shown in Fig. 1. While the pocket flap is so opened, however, the easel flap cannot be pulled open without simultaneously reclosing the pocket flap.

To facilitate opening and closing of the flaps 14, 15, a single aperture or finger hole 26 is cut in the blank. Use of but a single such finger hole is made possible by locating it, as shown, so that it borders on the portion of the sheet which is common to both of the flaps 14, 15. By reason of such location, the user can insert a finger tip or finger nail into the hole 26 and flip up either the flap 14 or the flap 15.

To hold the easel flap 15 in its extended position shown in Fig. 2, any suitable arrangement may be employed such, for example, as the locking tab 22 illustrated. To define this tab the blank is scored or creased along the dot-dash line 27 (Fig. 4) and cut along the line 23, the latter being indented at 23a. Accordingly, after the easel flap 15 has been swung outward at right angles to the body of the easel back 10, the locking tab 22 can be swung downward to the position shown in Fig. 2 in which the indentation 23a receives the adjacent portion of the forward edge of the easel flap, holding the latter securely in position.

By way of contrast, it may be noted that the score lines 21 and 27, although at right angles, do not intersect as do the score lines 20 and 21 in view of the fact that the score line 21 is interrupted adjacent the score line 27. In consequence, the flaps 14, 15, which are hinged along the intersecting score lines 20, 21 are interlocked as heretofore described, whereas the flap 15 and tab 22, which are hinged along the respective non-intersecting score lines 21 and 27, are not interlocked and can be, and are, both swung outward without interference with each other.

From the foregoing it will be seen that an easel back has been provided which can be readily die cut or stamped from sheet material in large quantities at low cost. By reason of the described interrelation of the flaps, the pocket flap is held rigidly closed by the extended easel flap, making unnecessary the use of metal latches or the like for holding the pocket flap closed. In fact, the easel back is formed in its entirety from but a single piece of sheet material without necessitating the cost of gluing, stapling or otherwise attaching any supplemental elements. Moreover, the fact that a single flat blank of sheet material constitutes

the easel back in its entirety makes it possible to stack the blanks in minimum space for storage and shipment. On the other hand, the manipulation of the pocket and easel flaps during insertion of a picture and erection of the easel is so simple as to pose no problem for the user.

I claim as my invention:

1. A die cut easel back for pictures or the like comprising a single flat sheet of foldable board cut and creased to define within its borders a pocket flap extending transversely across the upper portion of the sheet, said pocket flap being hinged to the remainder of the sheet along a transverse crease line defining the lower edge of said pocket flap and about which the latter is foldable rearwardly and downwardly out of the plane of said sheet to permit the insertion of a picture through the opening occupied by said pocket flap, and said sheet also being cut and creased to define within its borders an easel flap extending generally longitudinally of the sheet and disposed with its upper portions superimposed on the central portion of the outline of the pocket flap, said easel flap being outlined by cuts in the sheet defining its bottom edge and an upwardly extending side edge, the other side edge of the easel flap being defined by a second crease line in the sheet disposed at right angles to and intersecting the first-mentioned crease line, the rigidity of said superimposed upper portion of said easel flap against deflection of the same in an edgewise direction serving to retain said pocket flap firmly in the latter's closed position in the plane of said sheet when said easel flap is folded rearwardly along said second crease line into a position in which said easel flap projects rearwardly substantially at right angles to the plane of said sheet for supporting the latter.

2. A die cut easel back for pictures or the like comprising a rectangular single flat sheet of foldable board cut and creased to define within its borders a pocket flap extending transversely across the upper portion of the sheet, said pocket flap being hinged to the remainder of the sheet along a transverse crease line defining the lower edge of said pocket flap and about which the latter is foldable rearwardly and downwardly out of the plane of said sheet to permit the insertion of a picture through the opening occupied by said pocket flap, and said sheet also being cut and creased to define within its borders an easel flap extending generally longitudinally of the sheet and disposed with its upper portion superimposed on the central portion of the outline of the pocket flap, said easel flap being outlined by cuts in the sheet defining its bottom edge and an upwardly extending side edge, the other side edge of the easel flap being defined by a second crease line in the sheet disposed at right angles to and intersecting the first-mentioned crease line, and said sheet being further cut and creased to define an interlock tab foldable rearwardly of the plane of the sheet along a third crease line intersecting said second crease line and said tab being shaped to engage said easel flap in the latter's rearwardly projecting position and retain the same in the latter position.

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