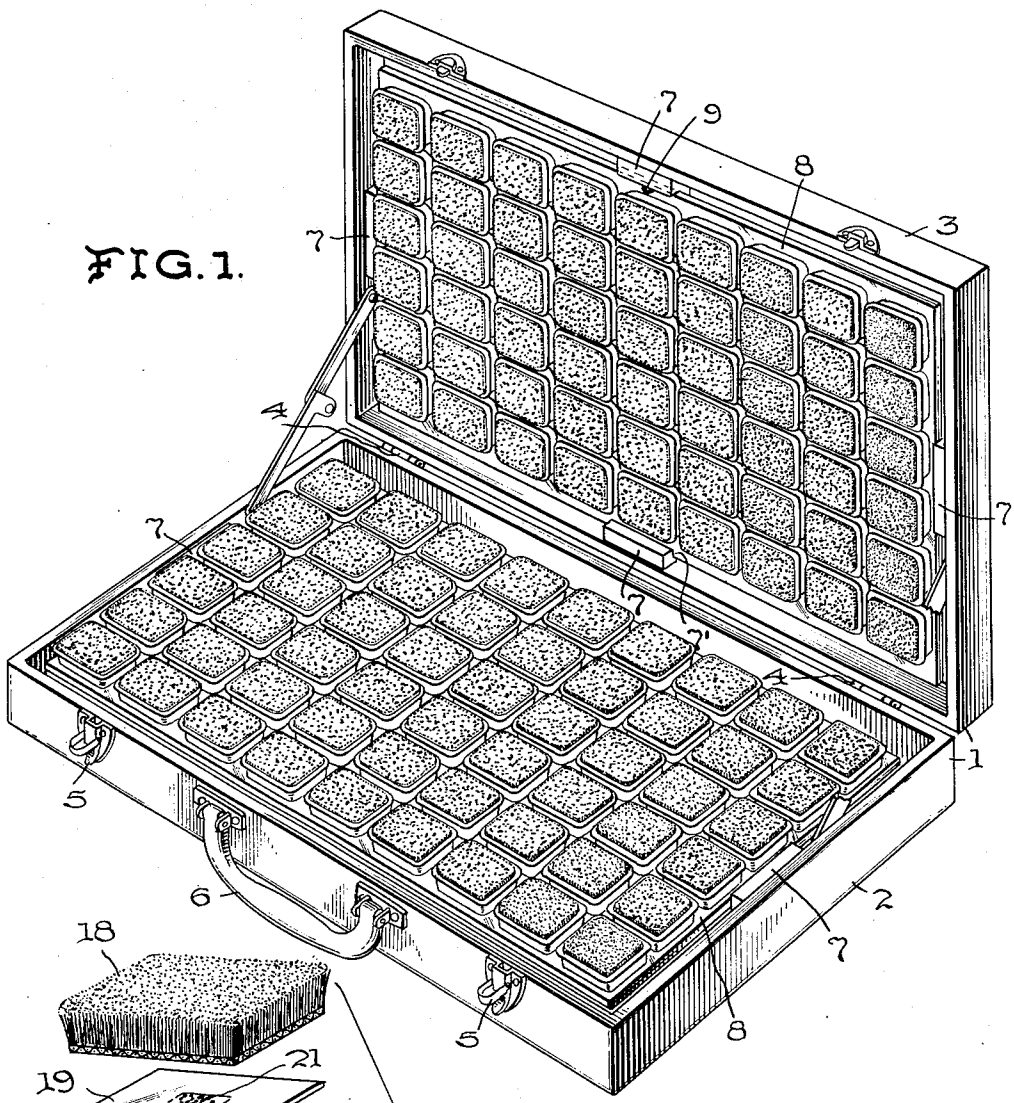
May 10, 1955 W. GREEN, JR 2,707,839

DISPLAY KIT FOR COLORED CARPET SAMPLES AND THE LIKE

Filed May 1, 1952

FIG. 1.



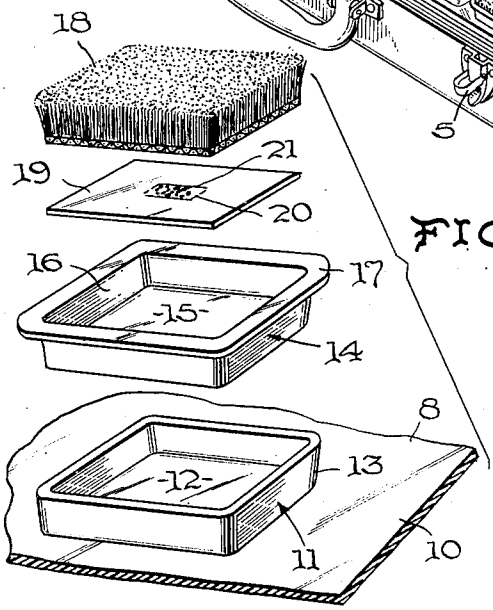
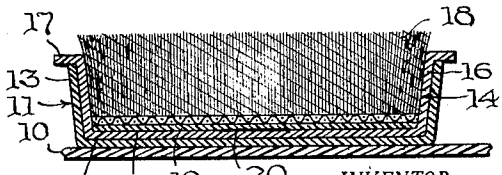


FIG. 2.

FIG. 3.



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DISPLAY KIT FOR COLORED CARPET SAMPLES AND THE LIKE

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4 Claims. (Cl. 35—55)

The present invention relates to sample display kits, and more particularly, to a sample display kit primarily adapted for displaying sample swatches of rugs, carpets and the like.

Heretofore, in the custom-colored carpet trade, it has been the practice for a potential customer to send a sample of upholstery material, drapery material or the like which he desires to have matched by a custom-colored carpet or rug. The manufacturer would then match the sample material with a piece of yarn which would be sent to the customer for comparison. This is a time-taking and unsatisfactory procedure, however, since often it became necessary to send several different pieces of yarn to the customer before he was satisfied. Such a procedure is further disadvantageous for the reason that it is extremely difficult to visualize the color appearance of an entire carpet or rug by the examination of a mere section of yarn from which the carpet or rug is to be made.

Accordingly, it is an object of this invention to provide improved means for enabling rapid and accurate selection of a carpet or rug color and/or quality, style or weave which will be in harmony with the other decoration scheme or motif of a room.

Another object is to provide novel means for displaying colored samples or swatches of carpet, whereby individual swatches may be held adjacent to some surface with which it is desired to be compared, such as draperies, upholstery, painted surfaces and the like.

A further object is to provide a novel kit for displaying colored samples or swatches of carpet, which may be readily and easily transported to the home of a customer, and which also provides an attractive display for the use of interior decorators or carpet saleshouses to be used in display windows, on display counters and otherwise.

A still further object is to provide a novel kit for displaying colored samples or swatches of carpets and the like, which is capable of displaying a large number of swatches of various colors and/or quality, style or weave, with the colors in spectrum sequence for enabling the different colors to be readily located.

The foregoing general objects of this invention are attained by a novel construction which includes a carrying case having one or more panels removably mounted therein, each panel having means for supporting a plurality of swatches, and each swatch having means associated therewith for identifying the color and/or quality, style or weave thereof, the identifying means being suitably coded with the dyes of the carpet manufacturer, thus assuring that a finished carpet will correspond exactly with the color of any selected swatch.

Still another object is to provide means for removably mounting each swatch in individual transparent supports which are in turn removably carried by a panel, whereby swatches may be readily interchanged in their individual supports for changing the selections of colors available, and the individual supports may be readily interchanged on the panel for accommodating additions

to and deletions from the various color shades and tones, while allowing the spectrum sequence of the swatches to be maintained.

Other objects and advantages will become apparent as the description progresses, and the novel features of the invention will be defined in the appended claims.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a view in perspective showing a rug or carpet sample display kit made in accordance with this invention, the carrying case being open as when it is on display to reveal the removable panels of color swatches;

Fig. 2 is an exploded view of a fragmentary portion of one of the removable display panels, together with the component parts of one complete color swatch display; and

Fig. 3 is a sectional view of the elements of Fig. 2, with the component parts of the color swatch display in fully assembled condition on the display panel.

Like reference characters in the several figures of the drawings designate corresponding parts, wherein **1** generally denotes a carrying case having a base portion **2** and a cover **3**. These case portions are suitably hinged at one of their contiguous sides, as at **4**, and are provided with any suitable latch means **5** on the opposite sides thereof from the hinge means. The case is also preferably provided with an appropriate handle **6** for carrying the case.

Interiorly, both the base **2** and the cover **3** of the case are provided with opposed marginal ledges or blocks **7** projecting inwardly thereof. These blocks **7** serve to locate and support a display panel **8** in each of the case sections, and a spring-pressed ball keeper **9**, or other suitable means, carried by one or more of the blocks **7**, removably locks the panels in place, with the marginal edge of the panel **8** opposite the keeper **9** seated in a groove **7'** in the block **7**, as shown on the hinged side of said cover **3**.

The panels are identical, and therefore, the following description of one panel will suffice for both.

Referring particularly to Figs. 1 and 2, the panel **8** comprises a rectangular, flat base **10**, preferably made of a transparent plastic material, such as "Lucite" or the like. Arranged in a suitable order on the base **10** is a plurality of transparent plastic cup-like receptacles **11** which are secured to the base by a suitable adhesive or fusion, as may be desired. In the illustrative embodiment, the receptacles **11** are substantially square, and the marginal walls **13** thereof preferably project outwardly from the base at a slight angle so that the receptacles taper inwardly towards the bottoms thereof. In practice, the receptacles **11** need not have a bottom **12** as shown in the drawings, but may comprise merely the walls **13**, which would be secured to the base **10**, as is apparent.

Removably mounted in each of the receptacles **11** is an individual support or container **14** which is also preferably made of a suitable transparent material. The individual containers **14** each include a bottom **15** and outwardly projecting marginal walls **16**, with the walls **16** formed at an angle relative to the bottom **15** so as to provide a snug friction fit within the receptacles **11**, as shown in Fig. 3. The outer edge or lip of each container **14** projects laterally outward so as to provide a marginal flange that will overlie the outer edge of its respective receptacle **11** and provide a handling portion **17** which may be readily gripped by the fingers to remove the container from its receptacle for purposes of handling, interchanging containers or otherwise rearranging the same.

Removably secured in each container **14** is a swatch of carpet **18**, these swatches representing the color and/or quality or style of a complete carpet or rug, and being dyed so as to present a wide range of colors, shades and

tones. Assuming that each panel has, for example, six rows of nine receptacles, it is clear that each panel would display fifty-four colors, and the case with its two panels would display one hundred eight individual swatches, each distinct from the other as regards color. However, the colors of the swatches on each panel could be the same and the quality or style of the swatches on the respective panels different, or any other desired arrangement may be utilized.

The individual swatches are removably secured in the containers preferably by means of an adhesive coated sheet or strip **19** of transparent material, such as the well-known "Scotch" tape, but which has both of its sides coated with adhesive material. The adhesive member **19** sticks to the base of the swatch and to the bottom of the container **14**, and thus removably secures the swatch therein.

Identification means **20**, such as a label having indicia **21** on the lower face thereof, is positioned face down in each container for identifying the characteristics of the respective swatches as regards its color and/or quality or style. The indicia **21** on these identification labels is coded with the manufacturer's dyes in such a manner that it is only necessary to know the number or other identification of a swatch, and a customer can order a carpet or rug which will match the swatch exactly, thus substantially simplifying the process of ordering custom dyed carpets and the like.

In the illustrations, the identification labels **20** are shown as being interposed between the adhesive strips or sheets **19** and the base of the container, but these labels may be located otherwise, so long as they may be readily observed when the containers are removed from their respective receptacles, or when the panel as a whole is turned over.

In use, when it is desired to ascertain what particular color, shade or tone of carpet or rug would be most suitable in a particular environment, a selected container **14**, with its swatch **18**, is removed from its receptacle **11** and placed adjacent to the drapes or other articles which are to be matched or properly contrasted, or adjacent to some upholstery, as the case may be. If the colors of the swatch and the article being matched or contrasted are satisfactory, the code indicia **21** is noted, and a floor covering is ordered and made up in the color of the selected swatch, as represented by its code indicia. If a proper or desired match or contrast is not attained, the container and swatch are placed back in their receptacle and another selected for comparison.

While the kit has been shown as being rectangular in general form, the panels **8** and the case **1** may obviously be made in any other desired or convenient form. Furthermore, the receptacles **11** and containers **14** may have any configuration other than square as shown, so long as the container fits snugly into the receptacle and is retained therein by friction, and other changes may also be resorted to without departing from the spirit of this invention as defined in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A carpet sample display kit of the class described for displaying sample swatches of carpet, comprising a carrying case, a display panel, means in said case for removably holding said panel, a plurality of swatches having different characteristics, an individual transparent container for each of said swatches, identification means associated with each of said swatches and visible through its respective container, said identification means having indicia representing the characteristics of its respective sample, means for removably securing said swatches in their respective containers, and means on said panel for displaceably supporting said containers.

2. A panel for displaying sample swatches of carpet and the like, comprising a base, a plurality of receptacles mounted on said base, an individual transparent container removably held in each of said receptacles by friction between their respective side walls, a swatch having predetermined characteristics in each of said containers, means for removably securing said swatch in its container, a label located between each swatch and the bottom of its container, said labels having indicia thereon denoting the characteristics of the swatches in the respective containers.

3. A carpet sample display device as defined in claim 2, wherein the means for removably securing said swatch in the container comprises a sheet of material having an adhesive coating on its opposite sides, one of said adhesive coated sides being engaged with the bottom of said container and the opposite side thereof being engaged with said swatch.

4. A sample display device of the class described, comprising a base having a plurality of receptacles mounted thereon, a plurality of individual containers removably mounted in said receptacles, grip means on each of said containers for enabling said containers to be individually lifted from said receptacles, a sample in each of said containers having predetermined characteristics, means for removably securing said samples in the respective containers, and means associated with each of said containers and samples for identifying the characteristics of said samples, said containers each having a transparent bottom, and the means for removably securing said samples in the respective containers comprising a transparent sheet of material having an adhesive coating on opposite sides thereof, said sheet being interposed between one of said samples and the bottom of its container, with the adhesive sides of said sheet engaged with said sample and the bottom of said container, said identifying means comprising a label secured to the bottom of said sample by said transparent adhesive sheet and being visible through the bottom of the container when it is removed from its respective receptacle.

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