

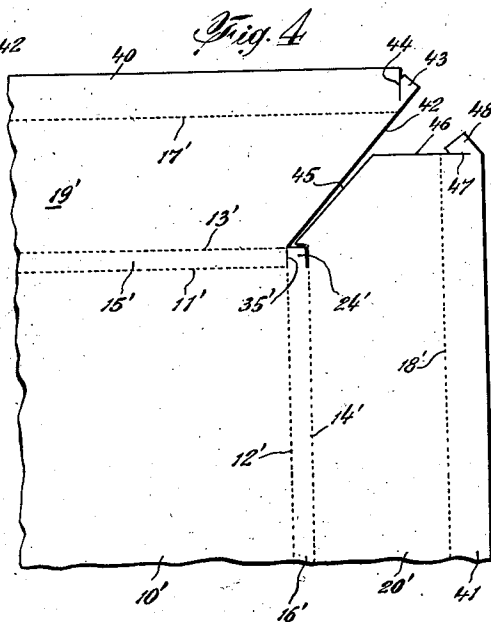
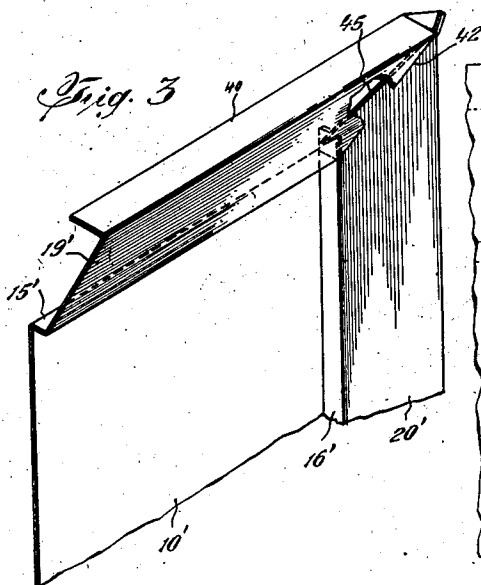
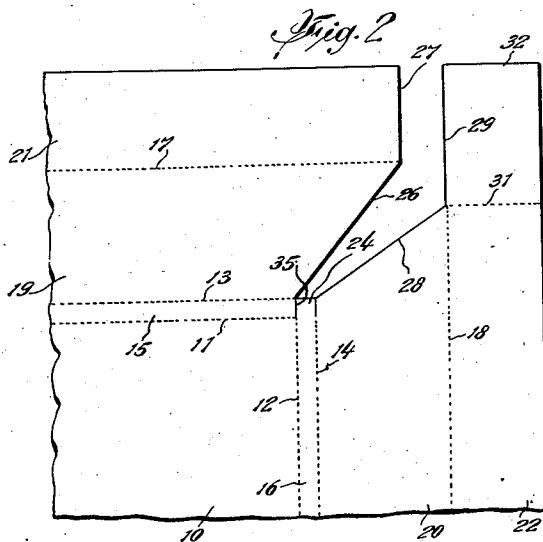
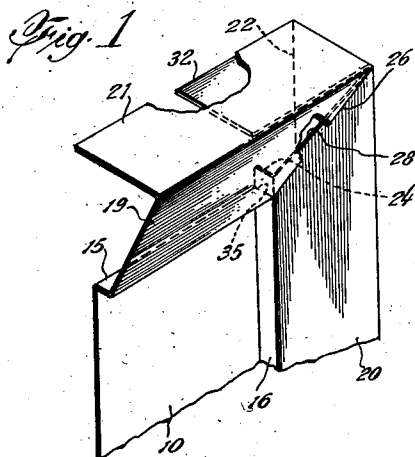
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2,407,431

PICTURE FRAME OR THE LIKE

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## PICTURE FRAME OR THE LIKE

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1 Claim. (Cl. 40-154)

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This invention relates to new and useful improvements in picture frames or like articles, and has for its principal object the provision of a novel frame structure which may be formed from a single blank of sheet material such as paper, cardboard, or the like.

One of the principal objects of the present invention is the provision of an inexpensive article of this general character which may be die cut or otherwise formed from a blank of flexible material, and which may occupy a flat position before the same is assembled into the picture frame, the latter operation being quickly and easily performed. An assembled picture frame constructed in accordance with the present invention will have an attractive bevelled border resembling the more expensive picture frames formed of wood or other material. In the frame of the present invention, however, the entire frame, including the backing, is formed from a single blank, thus increasing the simplicity of the structure.

With the increasing interest in amateur photography, it is highly desirable to have inexpensive frames readily available, particularly to take the place of the ordinary cardboard mounts, which have been used from time immemorial. The frame of the present invention is especially novel in that it provides a recessed central portion for the reception of the photograph or other picture, and provides an attractive bevelled frame element.

In one form of the invention, the blank may be cut from the flat sheet material, assembled, and the picture then adhesively secured within the recessed central portion. In another form of the invention, however, the recessed central portion may be sensitized in the usual manner, and the picture printed on such sensitized portion. The frame may then be assembled, and the frame and photograph thus combined in one integral unit.

Another object of the present invention is the provision of a novel blank having a square or rectangular central portion for the reception of a photograph or other picture, and having integrally-formed extensions on all four sides of the central portion, which, when properly cut and folded, can be readily formed into a bevelled frame element. In this connection, the corner sections are so cut as to provide at each corner section a novel cooperating supporting surface which receives an adjacent surface of the corner section, and thus permits the frame to retain its shape for a long period of time, despite the fact

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that its adjacent portions may be secured together without special attaching means. In one form of the invention, the overlapping portions may be secured together by means of an adhesive, and in another form of the invention, interlocking tabs may be provided.

Other objects of the invention will be hereinafter specifically pointed out, or will become apparent as the specification proceeds.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a corner section of a picture frame embodying the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a corner section of the blank used in forming the embodiment of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a corner section of a modified embodiment of a picture frame of the present invention.

Fig. 4 is a corner section of the blank used in forming the embodiment of Fig. 3.

The first embodiment of the invention may be made from a single blank, which may be rectangular or square. The corner section only of the blank is shown, for the reason that the other three corners are similarly shaped. The blank includes a central, rectangular section 10, forming a recessed panel, formed with fold lines 11 and 12 along the marginal edges thereof, and with further fold lines 13 and 14 spaced therefrom. Between each adjacent pair of these fold lines, inner side wall portions 15 and 16 are provided. The blank further includes fold lines 17 and 18 forming diagonal, outwardly-extending walls 19 and 20. Outer side walls 21 and 22 are defined by fold lines 17 and 18, respectively, and the adjoining marginal edges of the blank. A short extension 24 extends between fold lines 11 and 13, and is integrally joined with the terminal of inner side wall 16. The blank is cut out, forming edges 26, 27, 28 and 29, respectively. A further fold line 31 defines the inner end of an extension tab 32.

When the frame is to be assembled, inner side wall portions 15 and 16 are bent to assume a right-angular position relative to the recessed panel 10. In this position, the outer terminal 35 of inner side wall 15 abuts against extension 24, and thus assures a good mitred fit. Outwardly-extending diagonal side walls 19 and 20 are next folded into place, after which outer side walls 21 and 22 are bent to assume a position parallel to inner side walls 15 and 16, respectively. Extension tab 32 is next folded at right angles to the rear of outer side wall 21. This tab may be

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secured to side wall 21 by adhesive, by stapling, or by any other suitable means.

When the cut-out portion is formed in the manner shown, a portion of the blank adjacent to edge 28 projects under edge 26, thus forming a support for such edge and preventing a space occurring between the two meeting edges in the event that the members are not too accurately formed. This gives the frame a very neat appearance, and definitely eliminates the possibility of unsightly openings forming in the frame. When the four corners of the blank are similarly folded, the frame is complete and may receive a photograph or any other desired picture. Central recessed panel 10 may, on the other hand, have been initially sensitized, and the picture directly printed on such panel, thus forming a complete picture and frame in one piece.

If desired, the paper or cardboard forming the blank may be ornamented prior to cutting to give any desired attractive effect. For instance, the paper may have a design in the form of a wood grain, and thus give to the picture frame all the appearance of a wooden frame.

In the embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4, the blank may have the same recessed panel 10', the fold lines 11', 12', 13' and 14' forming inner side walls 15' and 16', and the diagonally-extending side walls 19' and 20'. In this case, however, the outer side walls 40 and 41 are illustrated as being somewhat more shallow than are the outer side walls 21 and 22 in the first embodiment. Extension portion 24' is shaped similarly to extension portion 24 in the first embodiment, and edge 35' abuts against this extension. The cutout portion in this blank is somewhat differently shaped, however. Diagonal edge 42 of this cut-out portion is substantially similar to diagonal edge 26 in the first embodiment, but this edge continues beyond fold line 17' and terminates in a short tab 43, which is further defined by a transverse cut 44. Diagonal edge 45, in this case, extends somewhat further under diagonal edge 42, and thus affords even a greater measure of support than does that portion of the blank adjacent to diagonal edge 28 in the first embodiment. Edge 45 terminates in a transverse edge 46, and a cut line 47 defines a tab 48.

When the several portions of the blank are folded in the manner shown in Fig. 3, edge 42 rests upon that portion of the blank adjacent to edge 45, and when outer side walls 40 and 41 are bent to assume a position generally parallel with inner side edges 15' and 16', the extension tabs 43 and 48 may be interlocked in the manner shown, thus

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giving the corner sections an attractive finish without, however, requiring any adhesive. If desired, of course, these tabs could be adhesively secured to the opposed outer side walls.

The exact cross-sectional contour of the lateral frame portions is, of course, a matter of choice, and this contour may be modified without departing from the invention. For instance, diagonal wall 19 may be positioned at an obtuse rather than an acute angle relative to central panel 10, or it may, if desired, be substantially parallel with panel 10. Also, outer side wall 21 may occupy some angle other than a right angle to the central panel, and the same is true of inner side wall 15. Also, if desired, outer side wall 21 may be eliminated entirely.

While I have herein shown and described a number of forms or embodiments of my invention for illustrative purposes, and have disclosed and discussed in detail the construction and arrangement incidental to several specific applications thereof, it is to be understood that the invention is limited neither to the mere details or relative arrangement of parts, nor to its specific embodiments shown herein, but that extensive deviations from the illustrated forms or embodiments of the invention may be made, without departing from the principles thereof.

What I claim is:

A picture frame formed from a single blank of sheet material, said blank including a centrally-disposed, generally-rectangular section forming a recessed central panel for the reception of the picture, an inner side wall, an outwardly-extending diagonal wall, and an outer side wall, the inner and outer side walls lying on substantially a right angle to the plane of the central panel, such walls being formed along each edge of the central panel, the several walls being defined by spaced fold lines, each corner of the blank having a cut-out portion to permit the adjacent terminals of the respective walls to be joined in abutting relationship, one terminal of each diagonal wall extending beyond the terminal of the adjacent diagonal wall, underlying such terminal and forming a support therefor, and an extension tab formed along the edge of one outer side wall at each corner section of the blank, one tab at each corner section having a transverse cut therein and the adjacent tab having a complementary transverse cut, whereby the tabs at the several corner sections may be secured together to set up the frame without the use of adhesives.

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