Aug. 18, 1936. C. CLARK 2,051,467

DISPLAY DEVICE

Filed May 10, 1935

Fig. 1

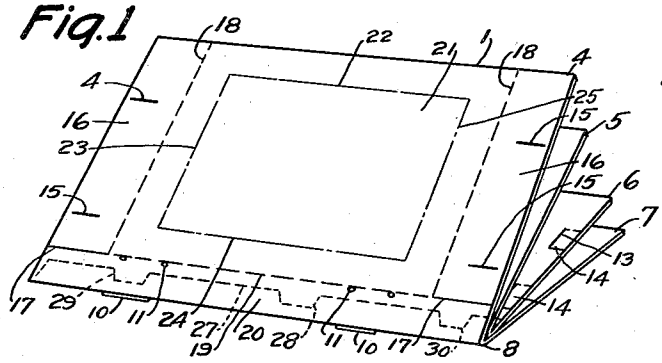


Fig. 4

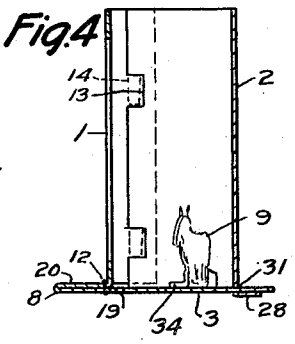


Fig. 2

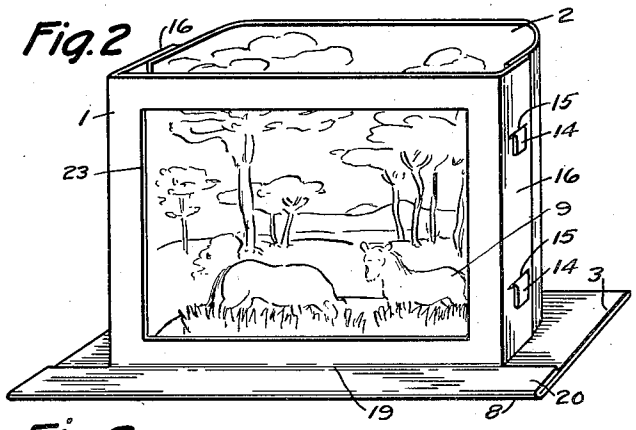


Fig. 5

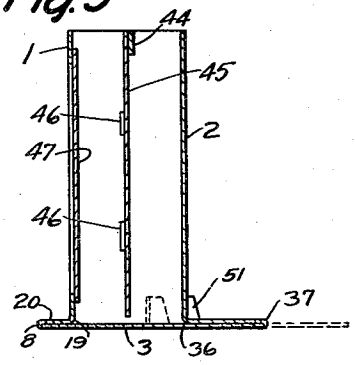


Fig. 3

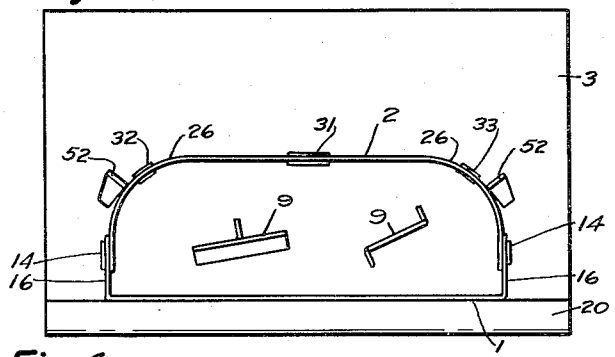


Fig. 7

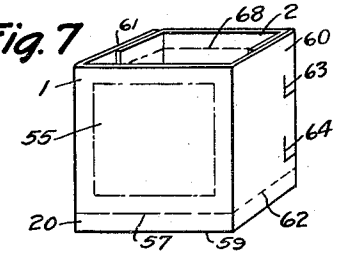


Fig. 8

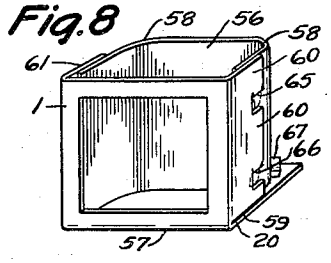
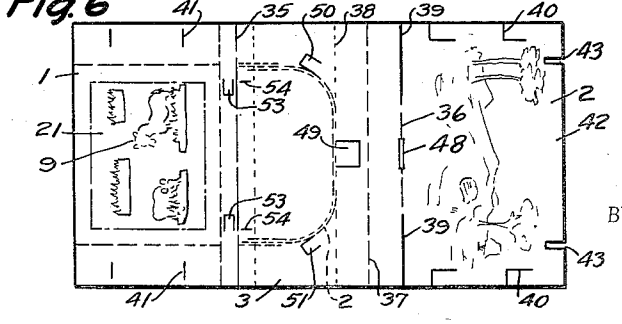


Fig. 6



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DISPLAY DEVICE

Charles Clark, New York, N. Y.

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16 Claims. (Cl. 40—126)

The purpose of this invention is to provide a toy or advertising device in the form of a miniature stage with a scene in the background and with animals or objects standing in the foreground, which may be provided in book or folder form and readily cut out and set up by relatively small children.

The invention is a book or folder, preferably made of paper or cardboard, in which one page contains a representation of the front of a stage or the proscenium arch, and is arranged so that the opening may readily be cut or pressed out, another page contains a scene which may be shaped and set up to form a back drop, and in which animals, plants, trees or other objects are provided on another page or on the back of the cut-out portion of the stage front, and these parts are so arranged that they may readily be shaped and set up to form a stage setting or the like.

Many similar devices have been provided in which dolls, figures, toys and the like have been printed in books, on boxes, and on cardboard and the like, and these have been arranged in different combinations and used for different purposes. Other devices have also been provided in which parts may be set up to represent different objects, and other parts or objects may be used in combination therewith, but any device has not been provided which may be set up to represent a stage setting or the like, in which the parts may be supplied in book or folder form so that they may be readily pressed or cut and shaped to form a frame with a scene in the background, and with smaller objects adapted to be set up between the frame and background, and also in which one may look through the frame to see the objects and a scene on the background.

The object of this invention is, therefore, to provide a toy, advertising or display device in the form of a miniature stage with a frame through which one may look to see a scene in combination with movable objects, which may be supplied in book or folder form at a relatively nominal price.

Another object is to provide a method of folding sheets of material to form a stage setting which enables the sheets of material to be provided in folder or book form.

A further object is to provide a display device in the form of a stage setting in which different color schemes and effects may be obtained by using different colored transparent, or partly transparent, drops or curtains.

And a still further object is to provide a miniature stage setting which may be supplied in book or folder form, and readily set up, which is of a simple and economical construction.

With these ends in view the invention embodies a folder or book of relatively stiff material having a representation of a stage front on one sheet, a scene on another sheet, animals or objects on another sheet, and a legend printed on some part thereof, and adapted to be readily cut or pressed out and set up.

Other features and advantages of the invention will appear from the following description taken in connection with the drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a view showing the device as it may be provided in book form.

Figure 2 is a front elevation showing the device, set up.

Figure 3 is a plan view of the device as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a cross section through the device as it may be provided in book form, showing the back drop on which the scene is printed, supplied as a separate cut out, and mounted in slots in a base, by tabs extending therefrom.

Figure 5 is a similar section showing an alternate design in which the back is attached to the edge of the base and set up by folding the edge of the base over.

Figure 6 is a view showing the device as it may be provided in the form of a folder with the parts open.

Figure 7 is a view showing an alternate design in which the device is provided in box form similar to a cereal container with the scene and other parts printed on the interior, and with the sides and ends of the container scored or marked so that they may be readily folded and set up, and it is shown with the top omitted.

Figure 8 is a view showing the design shown in Figure 7 set up.

In the drawing the device is shown as it may be made wherein numeral **1** indicates the frame or representation of the stage front, numeral **2** the back upon which the scene is printed or provided, and numeral **3** a base. It will be noted that these parts are made slightly different in some of the designs, but the respective parts are referred to by the same reference numerals, **1**, **2** and **3** respectively, in order to facilitate the description thereof.

In the design shown in Figure 1 the device is formed in book form and the book is provided with 4 pages, **4**, **5**, **6** an **7**, and the frame **1** is shown as formed on page **4**, the animals or other objects and also the text or legend may be provided

on page 5, the back drop and scene on page 6, and page 7 is preferably used as the base. The pages 4 and 7 are formed of one sheet of material folded at the point 8 forming the back, and the pages 5 and 6 are also formed of one sheet of material which is also folded at the back. With the page 7 positioned horizontally or upon a flat surface to form the back. The page 4 may be set upright in a perpendicular position with the central part removed so that it will form the frame, and the back 2 may be cut or pressed from the page 6 and set upon the base 3, as shown in Figures 3 and 4. The animals 9 may be cut from the page 5 and set upon the base 3, or they may be partially cut from the base 3 and folded upward to stand perpendicularly thereon between frame 1 and back 2. It will be understood, however, that this arrangement is only suggestive, as the respective parts may be provided on any of the other pages and as many pages may be used as desired. The pages are preferably connected by wire staples 10 and when setting up the device, there may be removed and placed through openings 11 in the lower end of the frame 1 and through the base 3 as shown at the point 12. The edges of the back 2 on page 6, may be formed with slits 13 forming tabs 14, and these may be inserted in slits 15 in flaps 16 at the ends of the frame 1, with the flaps folded backward. The lower ends of the flaps 16 are cut on lines 17 from the edges of the sheet inward to the lower ends of lines 18 which form the ends of the frame 1, and the flaps 16 are folded on these lines. At the lower end of the frame 1 is a fold line 19 providing a separating strip 20 between the fold point 8 and the point 19 which is folded on top of the base 3 as shown in Figure 4. In setting up the device the opening in the frame 1 is formed by pressing a sheet of material 21 out of the center, and the edges of this sheet of material may be cut on the rectangle formed by the lines 22, 23, 24 and 25, or the sheet 4 may be scored or partly cut so that the part 21 may readily be removed. Cuts may then be made on the lines 17 and the frame 1 may be folded upward at the point 19 as shown in Figure 4. The flaps 16 may then be folded backward so that the frame 1 is in the position shown in Figure 3. The back 2 may then be removed from the sheet 6 and the ends may be curved as shown at the point 26, in Figure 3, and the tabs 13 placed through the slits 14 and 15 in the flaps 16. The lower edge 27 of the back 2 may also be provided with tabs 28, 29 and 30 as indicated by the dotted lines in Figure 1, and these tabs may be inserted through slots 31, 32 and 33 in the base 3, as shown in Figures 3 and 4. The animals may then be cut or pressed from the sheet 5 and these may be set up as shown in Figures 2 and 4 by folding tabs at the ends toward either side, or they may be provided with flanges 34 at the bottom which may be folded at right angles to provide a base.

In Figure 6 the parts 1, 2 and 3 are formed on a continuous sheet of material, and this is divided into sections by fold lines 35 and 36 and the lower end of the frame 1 and also the entire frame is shaped and folded as shown in Figures 1 and 3, whereas the back 2 is positioned upon the base 3 by folding the base on the line 37 and folding the back 2 upward on the line 36 and with the rear edge of the base folded over, as shown in Figure 5, the fold line 36 will coincide with a dash line 38 on the base, as shown in Figure 6. The ends of the back 2 may be cut inward on the line 36, as shown at the points 39, and the edges may be provided with slits 40 similar to the slits 12 shown in Figure 1, and these may be inserted in slits 41 in the flaps at the edges of the frame 1, as shown in Figure 1. When these flaps are folded backward, the device will, therefore, have the same appearance as that shown in Figure 2, and the animals and other objects may be cut out of the piece of material 21 that is cut from the frame 1, or provided by any means. It will be understood that the animals or objects, of the device shown in Figure 1, may also be cut from the material 21, and that page 5 may be omitted.

In the design shown in Figures 5 and 6, the upper edge 42 of the back 2 is provided with notches 43 and a strip of material 44 may be supported in these notches, as shown in Figure 5, and this strip of material may support a curtain 45 which is preferably formed of transparent material and may be slightly colored. With a thin transparent curtain of this description hanging between the frame 1 and the back 2, it will be possible to produce different color effects in order to improve the scene, and it will also be possible to change the scene from day to night or vice versa. Objects may also be placed upon the curtain 45, as indicated by the numeral 46, and where a water scene is used, fish may be placed upon the curtain 45, so that they will appear to be swimming through the scene. Another sheet of thin transparent material 47 may also be placed on the back of the frame 1, as shown in Figure 5, and this may be used independently or in combination with the curtain 45, or with any number of curtains or drops, so that any desired effects may be produced. The curtains 45 and 47 may be continuous or may also be provided in different designs or shapes to represent theatrical drops so that substantially any setting desired may be obtained. These curtains may also be provided or supported in any manner.

In the design shown in Figures 5 and 6, the lower edge of the back 2 may also be provided with a slit 48 in which a tab 49 on the base 3 may be inserted and held, to hold the lower edge of the back, downward upon the base, and the base may also be provided with tabs 50 and 51 which may be raised upward as shown in Figure 5, to bear against the outer surface of the back, to hold it in shape with the back curved as shown in dotted lines, in Figure 6. It will be understood that as many of these tabs as may be desired may be used. Similar tabs 52 may also be provided in the design shown in Figure 3, and these may be pressed upward from the base 3 to assist in holding the back in the curved position as shown. These may be used in combination with the tabs 29 and 30, as shown, or either may be omitted, especially in small models. Additional tabs 53 may also be provided in the strip at the lower end of the frame 1, as shown in Figure 6, and these may be inserted in the slits 54 in the base 3, when the strip 20 at the lower end of the front or frame is folded upon the base. Any of these tabs may be made in any other shape, or may be arranged in any other manner, or any other means may be used for holding the parts at the different points.

The design shown in Figures 7 and 8 embodies the same principles of construction, and this design is inserted to illustrate that the device may be used in combination with cereal or other produce boxes or containers, as the scene and animals and other representations may be printed on either the inside or outside of the box, and after the product has been used from the box,

parts thereof may be removed and the back, front and sides folded, as shown in Figure 8, to obtain a setting similar to that shown in Figure 2. It will be understood, however, that whereas the box may be turned inside out, it may also be made as shown with the top removed, and the ends folded to form the complete set.

In this design the front of the box is provided with a removable section **55** and the animals or other objects may be printed on the back of this section, and the scene printed on the back **56**. and it will be noted that the front may be folded on the line **57** which is similar to that shown in Figures 4 and 5, and the back may be curved at the points **58**, which is similar to the fold shown in Figure 2, or these parts may be shaped and folded in any manner.

In Figure 8, the front or frame is folded outward instead of backward, as shown in Figure 5, thereby extending the front from the lower edge **59** of the box outward beyond the base thereof, and thereby increasing the distance between the front and back. The front **1** is folded upward on the line **57** and the strip **20** folded outward from the line **59**. The ends **60** and **61**, which are formed by the flaps extending from the front of the box, are cut on the line **62**, and the rear edges are provided with tabs **63** and **64** which are bent inward and inserted in slots **65** and **66** of the ends extending from the back **56**, in order to hold the back in place. Tabs **67** may also be bent upward from the base, as shown in Figure 8, to assist in holding the back. The upper edge of the back and the flaps at the ends thereof, may be cut on the line **68** so that they will be of the same height as the front.

It will also be understood that these parts may be formed or shaped or folded in any manner to provide the stage setting from the parts of the box.

It will be understood that other changes may be made in the construction, without departing from the spirit of the invention. One of which changes may be in the use of this device as an educational toy, or for advertising, and the names, pictures, or other representations may be used thereon, another may be in the use of this method of folding or shaping sheets of material, to form a stage set of any other shape, another may be in the use of this method of forming objects for forming windows or any other devices or objects, and still another may be in the use of other means for holding any of the parts. The design provided in book form may also be made with any number of pages, and the legend or text may be provided on the back of the back drop **2**, or on any other part thereof, and the animals or objects may be provided on the back of the part removed from the front or frame **1**, or provided as separate units. The base may also be formed in any other manner.

The construction will be readily understood from the foregoing description. In use the device is preferably provided in folder, or book form, with the scenes, animals, and objects printed on the respective parts thereof, and directions may also be printed on other parts, and a legend or text explaining the scene, or animals, or objects therein, or a history or story about the particular set, may be printed on the back of the back drop or on any of the parts, and this complete device may be sold through retail stores, or used as premiums or advertising novelties, as may be desired.

The device may readily be set up by cutting or pressing the different parts on the cut lines, and when set up the device comprises a frame with a back or drop, and animals set in front of the back or between the frame and back, and these parts are mounted on a base and positioned so that one may look through the frame to see the scene and animals or objects.

As hereinbefore stated this device may be used as an educational toy or just as a novelty or for advertising and also for various other purposes.

It will be understood that although the front panel **1** is shown folding backward and then upward, this panel may fold directly upward from the forward edge of the base; and similar changes may be made in the other parts.

Having thus fully described the invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A display device comprising sheets of material, one of which contains representations of a frame, another a scene, and another constituting a base, and means for mounting the sheets of material containing the frame and scene upon the base, with the scene forming a back drop positioned behind the frame and adapted to be seen therethrough, and said scene and frame forming a stage set.

2. A display device comprising a folder with one section thereof containing representations of a frame with a folding strip at the bottom and side flaps adapted to be folded backward at the ends thereof, and in which the central portion may be removed; another section represents a base upon which the fold strip at the lower edge of the frame may be folded; and another section represents a scene adapted to be shaped in a curved position to represent the back drop of a stage with the ends folded between the side flaps extending backward from the frame, said scene positioned behind said frame and adapted to be observed therethrough.

3. A device as described in claim 2 having tabs formed on some of said parts adapted to be held in slits in adjoining parts.

4. A device as described in claim 2 in which animals or objects are imprinted upon the central portion removed from the frame and adapted to be removed therefrom and set up between the frame and scene.

5. A folder having several pages with parts thereof adapted to be removed, folded and set up to form a stage setting comprising a frame forming the stage front, a back drop having a scene thereon, and a base, and means mounting said frame and back drop upon said base.

6. A device as described in claim 5 in which the representations of the different parts are cut from the respective pages.

7. A device as described in claim 5 in which the representations of the respective parts are marked on the respective pages and adapted to be removed therefrom, folded and set up with parts of one page interlocking with other parts formed on another page forming the mounting means.

8. A display device comprising a booklet having several pages, with one page adapted to form a base, another adapted to be folded to a position perpendicular to the base, and having an opening therein forming a frame representing the front of a stage or the like, and another adapted to be positioned upon said base and cooperating with said frame to form the back drop of a stage, and said page forming the back drop having tabs extending from the edges thereof, adapted to be inserted in slits in the base and

also into flaps extending backwardly from the ends of the frame.

9. A device as described in claim 8 in which the page forming the frame is first folded backward upon the base, positioning the front of the frame a short distance back of the edge of the base.

10. A device as described in claim 8 in which the page upon which the frame is formed is carried by the page forming the base.

11. The combination with a device, as described in claim 8, of animals and objects adapted to be set up between the frame and back.

12. The combination with a device as described in claim 8; of animals and objects positioned therein, and transparent curtains between the frame and back.

13. A device as described in claim 1, having thin sheets of transparent material suspended in front of the back.

14. A device as described in claim 2, having colored transparent curtains suspended therein.

15. A device as described in claim 5 having tinted transparent curtains suspended therein.

16. A device as described in claim 5, having transparent drops positioned in front of the back, and objects on said drops.

CHARLES CLARK.