



US 20020125163A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication**  
**Chou**

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2002/0125163 A1**

(43) **Pub. Date: Sep. 12, 2002**

(54) **ARTICLES CONTAINER FOR SCULPTURES**

**Publication Classification**

(76) Inventor: **Hsih Bin Chou**, Huntington Beach, CA  
(US)

(51) **Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> ..... B65D 85/42**

(52) **U.S. Cl. .... 206/418; 206/320; 206/780;  
206/426**

Correspondence Address:

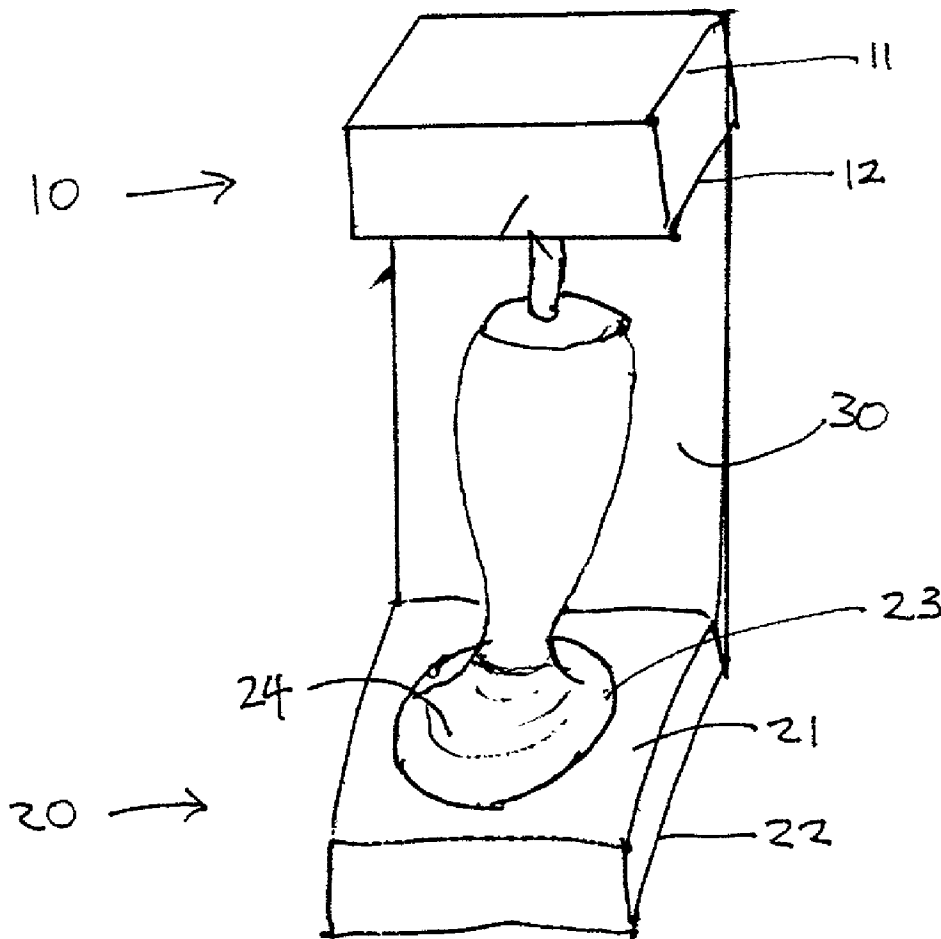
**CHARLES C.H. WU, ESQ.**  
**CHARLES C.H. WU & ASSOCIATES, APC**  
**7700 IRVINE CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 710**  
**IRVINE, CA 92618-3043 (US)**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

The invention is a device and means for storing and shipping fragile sculptures such as lamps. A cardboard structure encloses the top portion of a sculpture such as a lamp, while providing a base that receives the bottom part of a sculpture. The cardboard structure has a top holder and a bottom holder joined by a backing member.

(21) Appl. No.: **09/803,556**

(22) Filed: **Mar. 12, 2001**



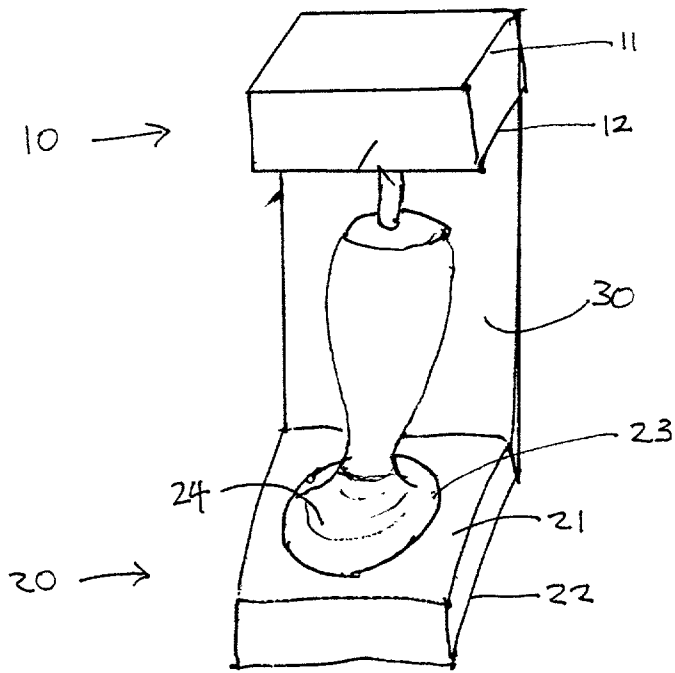


Fig. 1

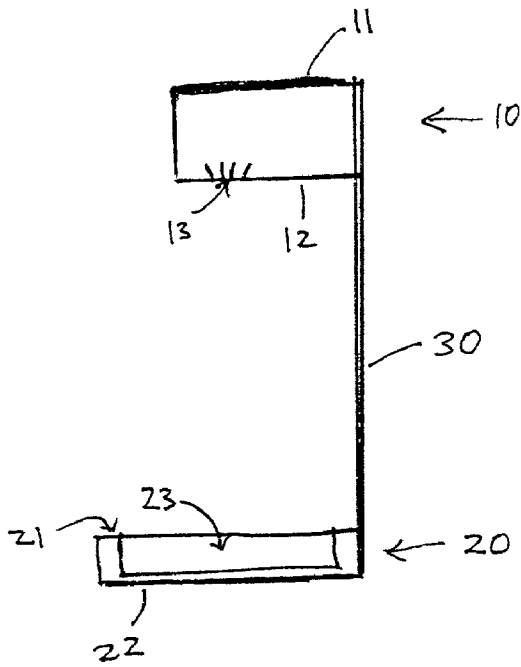


Fig. 2

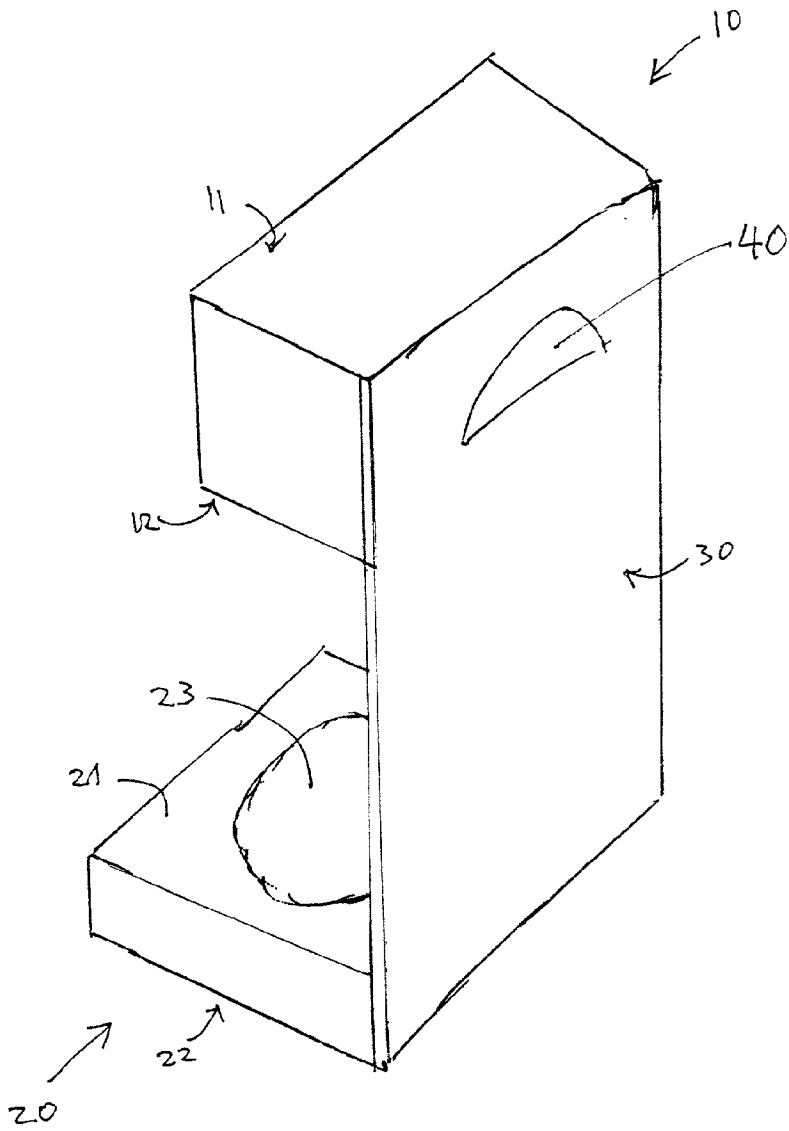


Fig.3

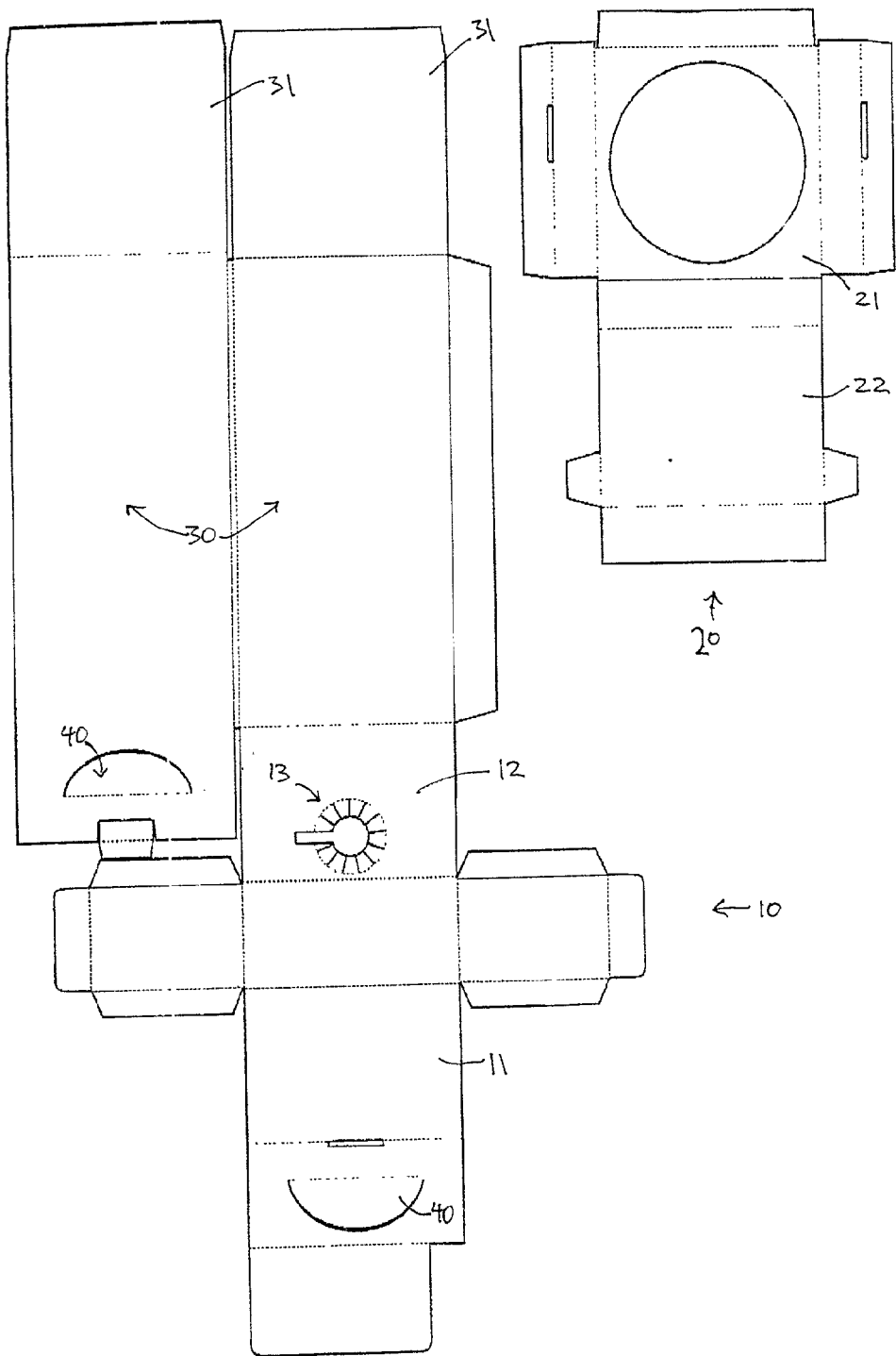


Fig.4

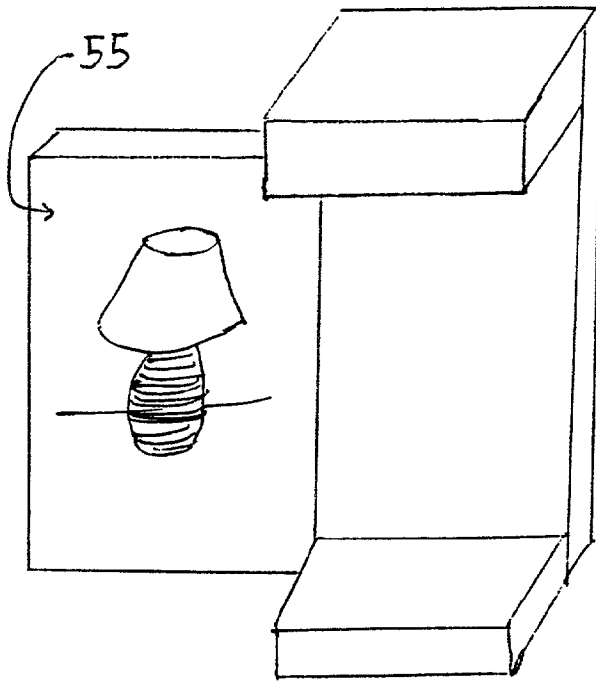


Fig. 5

## ARTICLES CONTAINER FOR SCULPTURES

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] Traditionally, shipping figurines, sculptures and lamps has been difficult and expensive. Fragile ceramics must often be insured against breakage. Lamps are among the most frequently shipped sculptures requiring careful handling. Lamps have been traditionally packed in Styrofoam containers where Styrofoam is shaped to receive the lamps. For custom lamps, Styrofoam peanut filled boxes are prevalent. Neither option conserves bulk packaging material.

### SUMMARY OF INVENTION

[0002] The invention is a device and means for storing and shipping fragile sculptures such as lamps. A cardboard structure encloses the top portion of a sculpture such as a lamp, while providing a base that receives the bottom part of a sculpture. The cardboard structure has a top holder and a bottom holder joined by a backing member.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0003] **FIG. 1** is a perspective view of an articles container holding a lamp body

[0004] **FIG. 2** is a side view of an articles container

[0005] **FIG. 3** is a rear perspective view of an articles container showing a preferred handle hole location

[0006] **FIG. 4** is a diagram of a cardboard layout showing assembly design of the preferred embodiment for a lamp container

[0007] **FIG. 5** is a diagram of a display panel embodiment

### DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0008] The device **FIG. 1** is comprised of a base holder **20** and an upper holder **10** that respectively hold the top part and the bottom part of a sculpture. A backing member **30** joins the top holder **10** and the bottom holder **20**.

[0009] The base holder member **20** retains the bottom portion of the article. The base holder **20** is formed from two sheets of cardboard, the upper sheet **21** is cut with a hole **23** to receive the base of a sculpture such as a lamp base. The lower sheet **22** covers the bottom of the article and supports the upper sheet **21**. The upper **21** and lower **22** sheets are preferably enclosed to form a box **20** having a hole **23**, **FIG. 223** shaped to retain the base of the sculpture. When a box structure is used, it preferred that the lower sheet **22** and the upper sheet **21** be formed from a single sheet of folded cardboard **FIG. 4**. The lamp cord and lamp plug can be stored as a coil around the lamp base to provide additional cushioning for the lamp base.

[0010] The base holder can optionally include a plastic transparent cover **FIG. 1, 24** encasing the bottom portion of the sculpture and retaining it with the base holder. The cover can be molded to conform to the bottom half of the sculpture. The cover holds the lower portion of an article and is retained by nailing, stapling or a like means to the lower holder. A retailer can remove the cover once a sculpture is placed on display. The cover can be of different colors and designs but is preferably transparent.

[0011] The upper holder **10** is likewise formed from two sheets of cardboard **FIG. 1**. A top sheet of the upper holder **11** and a lower sheet of an upper holder **12** can form a box enclosure **10**. Thus, the upper holder **10** is preferably formed as a boxlike enclosure similar to the lower holder. The upper holder encloses the upper portion of a sculpture. An upper holder for a lamp has a boxlike enclosure to enclose the light bulb socket.

[0012] The lower sheet of the upper holder **12** has an upper hole **13** conformed to the shape of the post that supports the light bulb socket. The upper hole is scored with radially emanating slots **14** to allow the upper hole **13** to enlarge and receive a light bulb socket, yet close thereafter to retain the light bulb socket. The lamp is better stabilized when the upper holder forms a box conforming to the shape of the light bulb socket. Having one side of the box of the upper holder against the light bulb socket helps retain the sculpture better than if no sides touch the light bulb socket.

[0013] The backing member structurally connects the top holder with the bottom holder. The backing member also provides a background so that a viewer of the sculpture article can see the sculpture with a background provided by the backing member **30**. The background provided by the backing member improves the display of a sculpture. The backing member can be plain white or colored to match the sculpture.

[0014] When the sculpture and is a lamp, a lampshade may be placed on the upper holder **10**. The boxlike enclosure **10** has a volume and space approximately equal to that of a light bulb allowing presentation of the entire lamp with its lampshade. The lampshade obscures the upper holder **10**, allowing a viewer to estimate the total overall appearance of a lamp with its lampshade without the need for unpackaging the lamp.

[0015] The preferred assembly, **FIG. 4** of the articles holder includes two pieces of cardboard. The first piece of cardboard folds into a box **20** and has a hole capable of receiving the base of a sculpture that it is designed to support. The lower holder hole capable of receiving the base of a sculpture can also be scored radially to allow biased resistance to provide a snug fit between the lower holder hole and the article. The first piece of cardboard forms a lower base holder **20** having a slot in the rear of the base of the lower holder capable of receiving and retaining a tab.

[0016] The second piece of cardboard folds together so that the backing member **30** has a tab **31** that can insert and be retained in the slot of the base holder. The backing member is preferably constructed of two layers of cardboard.

[0017] The second piece of cardboard also has a handle hole **FIG. 3, 40** at the rear of the top holder. The handle hole **40** allows a user to pick up the sculpture and the articles holder from the handle hole. A handle hole is particularly useful when hands should not touch a sculpture. Through the handle **40**, the light bulb socket can be seen. A buyer often needs to see the light bulb socket to view voltage and wattage information as well as product warnings. In the case of a sculpture the handle hole would allow a prospective purchaser to inspect the top portion of the sculpture.

[0018] The second piece of cardboard also has an opening **13** capable of receiving the top portion of an article such as

a lamp. In the case of a lamp, the top portion hole **13** is scored to flexibly receive a light bulb socket. The scoring allows biased resistance to hold a light bulb socket.

[**0019**] A display panel **55** can be laterally affixed alongside the backing member **FIG. 5**. The preferred side to affix the display panel **55** is the left side. The front side of the display panel can show an image of the lamp. The display panel **55** can be formed as a cardboard box capable of holding a collapsible lampshade. When the display panel is embodied as a box, the backing member can also be embodied as a box of similar thickness, capable of joining with the display panel box to provide enough room to store a collapsible lampshade. The display panel should be integrally formed from the same piece of cardboard as the second piece of cardboard, to create a box of square cross section capable of storage of a generally circular collapsed lampshade.

[**0020**] The units can be stacked as couples so that the lamp portion of a first unit fits against the display panel of a second unit, forming a rectangular box. The units can also be packed with two lampshades stored in a display panel of a first unit that fits with a second unit lacking a display box.

What is claimed is:

1. An articles container comprising:
  - a. an upper holder, formed from an upper holder lower sheet and an upper holder upper sheet, wherein said upper holder lower sheet is formed with an opening shaped to retain a top portion of a sculpture,
  - b. a lower holder, formed from a lower holder upper sheet and a lower holder lower sheet, wherein said lower holder upper sheet is formed with an opening shaped to retain a lower portion of a sculpture,
  - c. a backing member, structurally connecting said upper holder with said lower holder.
2. The articles container of claim 1, wherein said lower holder is formed as a box enclosure joining said lower holder lower sheet and said lower holder upper sheet.
3. The articles container of claim 2, further comprising a transparent cover molded to conform to a sculpture and attached to the lower holder.
4. The articles container of claim 3, wherein said lower holder formed as a box enclosure includes a handle hole defined to allow a person to lift the articles holder.
5. The articles container of claim 1, wherein said upper holder is formed as a box enclosure joining said upper holder lower sheet and said upper holder upper sheet.
6. The articles container of claim 5, wherein said upper holder formed as a box enclosure includes a handle hole defined to allow a person to lift the articles holder.
7. The articles container of claim 6, wherein said lower holder is formed as a box enclosure joining said lower holder lower sheet and said lower holder upper sheet.
8. The articles container of claim 7, further comprising a display panel rigidly attached alongside the backing member to allow a user to view a picture displayed on said display panel.
9. The articles container of claim 7, further comprising a transparent cover molded to conform to a sculpture and attached to the upper holder.
10. A lamp body container comprising:
  - a. an upper holder, formed from an upper holder lower sheet and an upper holder upper sheet, wherein said upper holder lower sheet is formed with an opening shaped to retain a top portion of a sculpture,
  - b. a lower holder, formed from a lower holder upper sheet and a lower holder lower sheet, wherein said lower holder upper sheet is formed with an opening shaped to retain a lower portion of a sculpture,
  - c. a backing member, structurally connecting said upper holder with said lower holder.
11. The lamp body container of claim 10, wherein said top holder is shaped to the approximate dimensions of a light bulb, whereby a viewer can place a lampshade upon said top holder to attain a notion as to the general overall appearance of the lamp having a lampshade.
12. The lamp body container of claim 10, wherein said lower holder is formed as a box enclosure joining said lower holder lower sheet and said lower holder upper sheet.
13. The lamp body container of claim 11, wherein said upper holder is formed as a box enclosure joining said lower holder lower sheet and said lower holder upper sheet.
14. The lamp body container of claim 12, wherein said opening shaped to retain a top portion of a sculpture, formed in the upper holder formed as a box enclosure, includes radially emanating scores to allow a person to push a light bulb socket through said opening, wherein said radially emanating scores enlarges said opening to allow a light bulb socket through said opening, wherein said radially emanating scores close to define an opening shaped to retain a post that holds a light bulb socket.
15. The lamp body container of claim 13, further comprising a display panel rigidly attached alongside the backing member to allow a user to view a picture displayed on said display panel.
16. The lamp body container of claim 13, further comprising a transparent cover molded to conform to a sculpture and attached to the upper holder.
17. The lamp body container of claim 14, wherein said transparent cover is plastic.

\* \* \* \* \*