

H. L. BROWN.
COLLAPSIBLE EXHIBITING FRAME.
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 27, 1918.

1,289,377.

Patented Dec. 31, 1918.

Fig. 1.

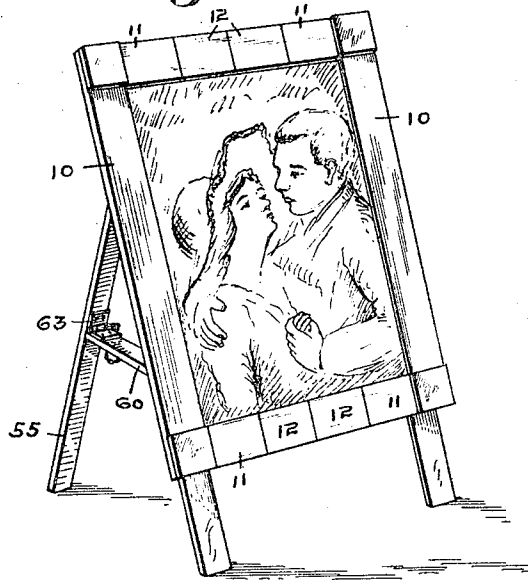


Fig. 2.

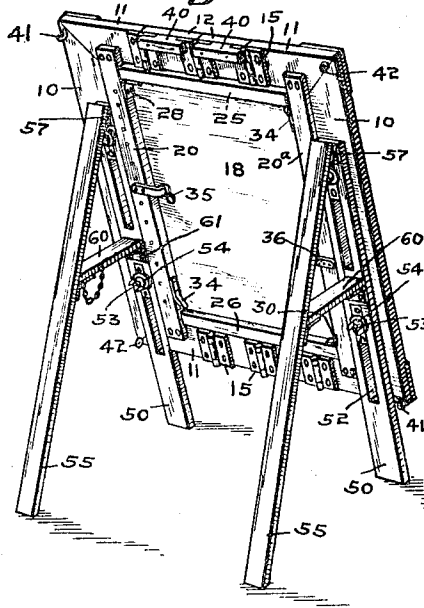


Fig. 3.

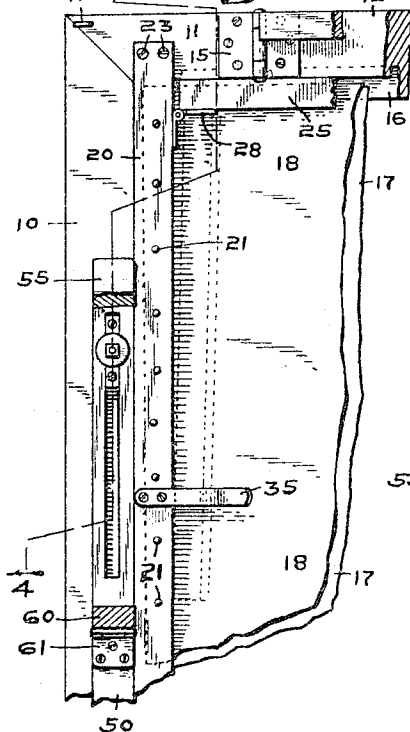


Fig. 4.

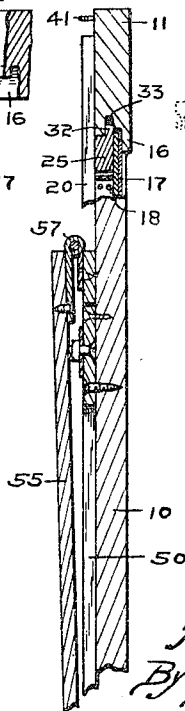


Fig. 5.

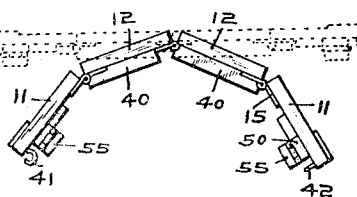
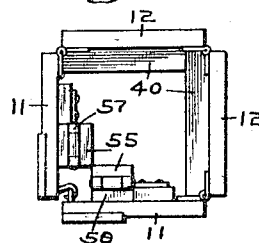


Fig. 6.



INVENTOR.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HERBERT L. BROWN, OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

COLLAPSIBLE EXHIBITING-FRAME.

1,289,377.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 31, 1918.

Application filed February 27, 1918. Serial No. 219,382.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HERBERT L. BROWN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Indianapolis, in the county of Marion and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Collapsible Exhibiting-Frames, of which the following is a specification.

Considerable difficulty has heretofore been experienced by the trade in securing prompt transportation and delivery of exhibiting frames containing pictures to be displayed in front of moving picture shows and theaters, while the postal service was closed to such shipments on account of the sizes and dimensions of such frames. The present invention relates to a collapsible or folding frame for exhibiting purposes; and one of the objects of the invention consists in the provision of a frame of the above character in which the customary pictures of established sizes and dimensions can be prominently displayed in front of theaters in the usual way, the said frames constructed to enable them to be folded into a reduced size to conform to postal rules regulating matter to be transported through the mails.

A further object of the invention consists in the provision of a collapsible exhibiting frame of the above character which, in the collapsible condition, can be opened up and made rigid when fully extended.

A further object of the invention consists in the provision of a collapsible exhibiting frame which is simple in construction and efficient in operation.

I accomplish the above objects of the invention and such others as may appear from a perusal of the specification and claims, by means of the construction illustrated in the accompanying drawings, forming a part hereof, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one of my improved exhibiting frames as it appears in operation. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the rear side of said frame, showing more clearly the movable operating parts. Fig. 3 is a fragmentary detail rear elevation of one corner of the frame, on an enlarged scale, showing more clearly the construction of the frame. Fig. 4 is a vertical sectional view of the construction, on the line 4—4 in Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a top or plan view of the collapsible frame, showing in full lines the first step in nesting the frame. Fig. 6 is a top or plan view of the

frame when nested and in condition to be transported.

Referring to the drawings, the exhibiting frame comprises the side members 10 and end members 11 forming a conventional rectangle. To enable the frame to be reduced in size for transportation purposes through the mails, the members 11 are severed transversely into the intermediate sections 12, 12. The ends of members 11 and the intermediate sections 12, 12 are hinged together by means of suitable hinges 15 as shown in Figs. 3 and 4. The inner and lower edges of members 10, 11 and sections 12, 12 are cut away so as to leave a forward depending ledge 16 for supporting a canvas or other material 17 upon which the picture or image is displayed, together with the usual mat 18 forming a backing for the material 17. The canvas or other material 17 and mat 18 are usually secured only on opposite sides to uprights 20 and 20^a, by means of tacks or screws 21, and the uprights 20 and 20^a are secured to the frame proper by means of the screws 23. In a frame where the upper and lower rails are cut into sections, as shown in Fig. 1, the upper and lower edges of the material 17 and mat 18 are left unsecured so as to allow for certain readjustments when the frame is in a collapsed condition, as shown in Fig. 6 of the drawings. When the frame is extended for exhibiting the picture, the several hinged sections and members are held in rigid alignment by means of the locking bars 25 and 26. Locking bar 25 is arranged near the upper and loosely attached ends of material 17 and mat 18 and is secured to the upright 20 by means of a hinge 28; the lower locking bar 26 being rigidly attached to upright 20^a by means of a hinge 30. The upper and lower edges of bars 25 and 26 are provided with a longitudinally extending rib 32 which enters a corresponding slot or channel 33 in members 11 and sections 12, 12 when said bars are in operative position. See Fig. 4. By means of this construction bars 25 and 26 not only maintain all of the hinged extensions in alinement and add rigidity to the collapsible frame, but also press the loose ends of the material 17 and mat 18 tightly against the depending ledge 16 of members 11 and sections 12, 12, thereby removing all unevenness in the surface of the picture, which unevenness may arise when the picture is bent in nesting the frame

for transportation. When locking bars 25 and 26 are in operation the free ends of said bars are held against accidental displacement by means of the spring catches 34.

5 When the frame is in a collapsed position the locking bar 25 is lowered to the position indicated by means of dotted lines in Fig. 3 so as to stand approximately parallel with the upright bar 20, and the free end

10 of locking bar 25 is positively retained by means of a spring catch 35. Similarly to locking bar 25, when locking bar 26 is raised into an elevated position so as to stand approximately parallel with the upright 20^a

15 its free end is temporarily retained in position by means of a spring catch 36, similar to the spring catch 35. To insure that the frame will describe an approximate rectangle when in a collapsed condition, I provide the spacing blocks 40 which are arranged

20 on the back side of sections 12, 12. Blocks 40 abut sides of the adjacent sections of the frame and these prevent the hinged parts from being moved inwardly back of a right

25 angle of one another. When the frame is moved into a collapsed position, as shown in Fig. 5, the free ends of said frame are temporarily secured together for transportation purposes by means of a suitable hook

30 41 and an eye 42.

For properly supporting and mounting the exhibiting frame a suitable distance above the ground in the usual and customary manner, I provide the legs 50 which, when

35 the frame is in a collapsed condition, are susceptible of being moved longitudinally, so that said legs can be moved in one direction to come within the mean marginal length of the frame, as when it is desired

40 to ship the frame, and may be moved in the opposite direction to so extend legs 50 beyond the lower marginal edge of the frame a sufficient distance to elevate the latter the desired distance above the side-walk or

45 ground, as shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings. This vertical adjustment of the frame is accomplished by providing legs 50 with longitudinal grooves 52 through which suitable screw-bolts 53 project, the said screw-bolts

50 being mounted in frame members 10 and projecting through the slots 52. The outer ends of the screw-bolts 53 are provided with wing-nuts 54 so that legs 50 can be easily and quickly clamped fast to the frame. To

55 render the frame on legs 50 self-supporting I provide suitable braces 55 which are connected to the upper ends of legs 50 by means of the hinges 57. Hinges 57 enable braces

60 55 to move and rest against sliding legs 50 when the frame is in a folded position, as clearly shown in Fig. 4 of the drawings. When braces 55 are moved away from legs

50 to form an easel, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, said braces and legs are positively

65 held a determined distance apart by means

of suitable tie-plates 60 which are permanently hinged at one end to the sliding legs 50 by means of the hinges 61, while the outer ends of tie-plates 60 are detachably secured to braces 55 so that a rigid construction is formed for supporting the picture when the latter is in operative position for exhibiting purposes.

With my improved collapsible frame pictures of established sizes and dimensions can

75 be displayed in front of moving picture houses and theaters, and can be readily taken down and reduced to a size to conform to the rules and regulations laid down for the transportation through the mails; 80

and upon arriving at the proper destination the frame may be easily set up to provide a strong, neat appearing, rigid frame capable of sustaining heavy usage to which exhibit frames are daily subjected. The lines

85 of demarcation between members 11 and sections 12, 12 are practically invisible upon the smooth surfaced frame, and as most frames for the herein described purpose are provided with channels, ogee and similar

90 curves, together with many other raised and depressed embellishments, the lines of demarcation in the frame are rendered wholly invisible.

When the frame is nested and ready for

95 shipment the same is placed into a neat container built for transportation purposes, and is not shown, as it forms no part of the present invention.

Having thus fully described my said invention, what I desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A picture exhibiting frame comprising a plurality of hingedly connected sections, locking-bars for holding the several sections

105 of the frame in alinement with the frame extended, and means for pivotally securing one end of the locking-bars to the adjacent edges of the frame, for lowering said bars out of operative position when the frame is

110 folded.

2. A picture exhibiting frame comprising a plurality of connected sections having an alined groove in their inner edges with a depending flange in advance of said groove, a

115 picture mounting means arranged with its marginal edges resting against the rear surface of said flange, means for holding the frame sections in rigid alinement with the frame extended, and ribs formed on said

120 holding-means for entering the groove and securely wedging the marginal edges of the picture mounting means tightly against the adjacent edge of the depending flange.

3. In combination with a picture exhibiting frame comprising a plurality of connected sections, of means for holding said frame sections in rigid alinement with the frame

125 extended, a pair of longitudinally adjustable legs susceptible of nesting within the

130

mean length of the frame, a pair of swing-
ing braces hingedly connected at their up-
per edges to and sliding with said legs, and
a pair of tie-plates for limiting the range
5 of movement of the free ends of the braces
when the latter are extended to render the
frame self-supporting.

4. In combination with a picture exhibit-
ing frame comprising a plurality of con-
10 nected sections, of means for holding said
frame sections in rigid alinement with the
frame extended, a pair of longitudinally
adjustable legs susceptible of being retracted
within the mean length of the frame, means

for securing the legs to the frame when pro- 15
jected a determined distance beyond the
marginal edge of the frame, a pair of braces
for holding the legs and frame in upright
position when exhibiting the picture, and
means for limiting the outward movement 20
of the free ends of the braces away from
the legs.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set
my hand and seal at Indianapolis, Indiana,
this 18th day of February, A. D. one thou- 25
sand nine hundred and eighteen.

HERBERT L. BROWN. [L. s.]

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents,
Washington, D. C."