Aug. 13, 1963 G. R. COX 3,100,573

EXHIBIT STAND

Filed May 24, 1961

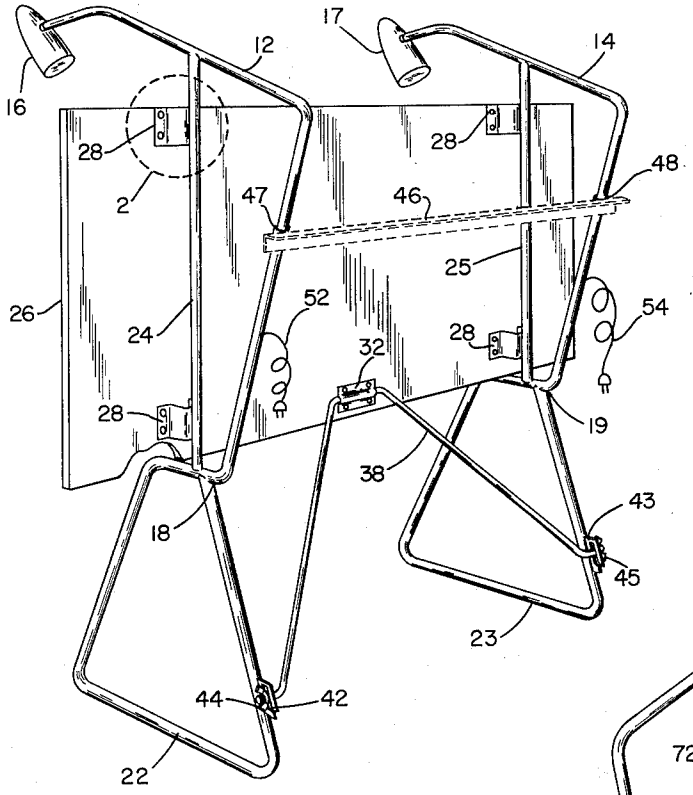


Fig. 1

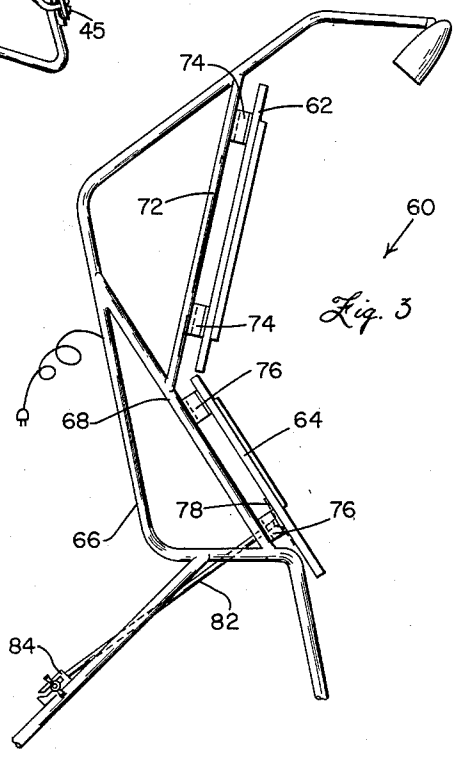


Fig. 3

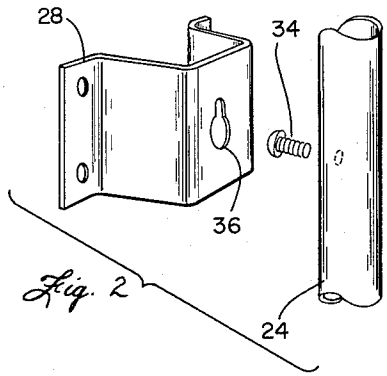


Fig. 2

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EXHIBIT STAND

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This invention relates to an exhibit stand and more particularly to an exhibit stand in which the parts are readily and conveniently assembled and disassembled for use, shipment or storage.

An exhibit stand is a device for supporting material for display purposes and may incorporate lighting equipment for directing light on the display material. A portable exhibit stand is one which may be assembled at the site of the display and after use may be disassembled for storage or shipment for use elsewhere or at another time. Existing portable stands are usually bulky when disassembled or else completely unattractive in order to obtain the characteristics which are required to make them portable. As a result, it is quite common to construct on site an exhibit stand with the intention of discarding it after use because of the difficulties and expenses frequently found in preserving the apparatus for shipment or later use.

The present invention embodies in a single exhibit stand many of the advantages found in both existing portable and permanent exhibit stands as well as other advantages to be described further below. The invention concerns a portable exhibit stand of simple construction which is very light in weight, convenient to assemble and disassemble and readily shipped or stored as well. Furthermore, these features are obtained without sacrificing the important esthetic values which generally are desirable in devices of this type.

In accordance with the principles of this invention, the exhibit stand is composed of a pair of flat units of tubular construction supporting a flat exhibit board which are all integrated into a unitary assembly. The back side of the exhibit board is provided with structural and bracket members which integrate the parts to form a unique exhibit stand in accordance with this invention.

It is, therefore, a first object of this invention to provide an exhibit stand of simple construction.

Another object of this invention is to provide a lightweight stand for supporting and exhibiting a display.

Still another object is to provide an exhibit stand which is readily assembled on site for display purposes and is then disassembled and packaged for easy transportation and storage.

Other objects and advantages of this invention will hereinafter become more evident from the following description of preferred embodiments of this invention, with reference made to the accompanying drawing in which:

FIG. 1 is a isometric view of one preferred embodiment of this invention;

FIG. 2 is a expanded view of detail 2 of the stand shown in FIG. 1; and

FIG. 3 shows a modification of the stand illustrated in FIG. 1.

Referring to FIG. 1, exhibit stand **10** is seen to consist in part of a pair of similar upright units **12** and **14**. Units **12** and **14** each consists of a continuous metal tube (such as aluminum) with swivel lamps **16** and **17**, respectively, at the top end, and are substantially flat, that is, co-planar. The other end of the tube in each unit may be welded in at **18** and **19**, respectively, to form a sturdy unit with flat bottom portions **22** and **23** extending flush with the floor for support. Vertical struts **24** and **25** are welded at both ends

as illustrated to the tubes of units **12** and **14** to support a display board **26** which adds rigidity to the assembly as a whole. Display board **26** is a flat, rigid member having displays on the side facing lamps **16** and **17**. Four support brackets **28** and a swivel bracket **32** are attached permanently on the back of board **26** as shown. Brackets **28** provide the means for attaching board **26** to vertical struts **24** and **25** of units **12** and **14**. The exploded view in FIG. 2 illustrates this arrangement. There it will be seen that vertical strut **24**, for example, is provided with a threaded screw **34** which has its head exposed to be inserted into the wide portion of a slot **36** in bracket **28**. Board **26** slides down until the head of screw **34** slips into the upper narrower portion of slot **36**. To mount board **26**, therefore, the latter is raised as shown in FIG. 1 to permit engagement of all the brackets **28** with their respective supporting screws on vertical struts **24** and **25**.

A modified inverted V-shaped tube or rod **38** forming bracing means is swivelly mounted on bracket **32** in the manner illustrated so that the outer ends thereof are free to be engaged with claws **42** and **43** mounted on units **12** and **14** respectively. Wing nuts **44** and **45** may be used to insure positive and permanent engagement at these points.

A jig bar **46** is shown in phantom extending between units **12** and **14**. Bar **46** has spring clips **47** and **48** for engaging with the tubing at these points. One or more jig bars **46** may be used to hold up units **12** and **14** during set-up of the display and may be either removed or left in place after board **26** is secured in place. Electric lead wires **52** and **54** for light fixtures **16** and **17** extend through the interiors of the tubes, as illustrated, thereby permitting convenient delivery of electric power to lamps **16** and **17**. It will be noted that no tools are required for the assembly or disassembly of stand **10**. In fact, not even a screw driver is required. In shipping exhibit stand **10**, board **26** is removed and stored flat with rod **38** swivelled up against the back of the former. Units **12** and **14** are also flat and so may be stored against or adjacent board **26**.

In the modified arrangement of FIG. 3, exhibit stand **60** is designed to accommodate a pair of somewhat narrower display boards **62** and **64**. End unit **60** here is somewhat similar to units **12** and **14** shown in FIG. 1, except that a pair of struts **68** and **72** are welded into place as shown, instead of the single vertical strut **24** or **25**. However, boards **62** and **64** are mounted on their respective struts in similar fashion, using brackets **74** and **76** for this purpose. Bottom display board **61** is provided with the swivel bracket **78** from which the V-shaped rod **82** is pivoted to extend down to engage claw **84** in the lower portion of unit **60**. This arrangement permits, with proper use of display material, more material to be shown in the limited space available and the creation of three-dimensional effects.

It will be seen that there has been provided an exhibit stand which is structurally rigid, portable and convenient to use. While embodying all the advantages mentioned above, it yet does not sacrifice materially any of the esthetic features found in permanent exhibit stands. When disassembled, the stand consists of sections which are substantially flat so that they may be readily crated and shipped for later use. During assembly, no tools or skills of any type are required. Each stand carries integral therein its own lighting arrangement, and two of the sections, namely the end units, are alike This permits the end units to be used interchangeably as well as having other advantages which are readily apparent to those skilled in the art.

While only two preferred embodiments of this invention have been described, obviously, many modifica-

tions and variations of the present invention are possible in the light of the above teachings. It is, therefore, to be understood that within the scope of the appended claims, the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described.

I claim:

1. A portable exhibit stand comprising, in combination, a pair of spaced upright units, each of said units consisting of a relatively thin, structurally strong continuous element bent substantially in a flat plane to form a lower portion, an intermediate display portion, and an upper, forwardly extending light supporting portion, strut means in the display portion of each unit attached at the ends thereof to said unit, display board means extending between said units supported by said strut means and having at least one forwardly extending display surface and a back surface, and brace means pivoted on said back surface having a pair of arms extending out each for lockable engagement with one of said upright units for forming therewith a rigid, display structure and for swinging flat against said back surface for convenient storage when said stand is disassembled.

2. The exhibit stand of claim 1 in which jig means are provided to hold said units upright and in proper spatial relationship while said display board means is mounted across said units and said brace means is pivoted into engagement with said units.

3. The exhibit stand of claim 1 in which the display portion of each unit is provided with at least two interconnecting struts, said display board means consisting of at least two display boards extending between said units, and said brace means is pivoted on the back surface of one of said display boards, thereby presenting a display having a three-dimensional effect.

4. The exhibit stand of claim 1 in which the lower portion of each said unit has a substantially horizontal section of said element forward from and immediately below said display board means to accommodate additional display material.

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