Sept. 29, 1970 F. HOWARD 3,530,593

DISPLAY DEVICE FOR CARPET SAMPLES

Filed Sept. 17, 1968

FIG. 1.

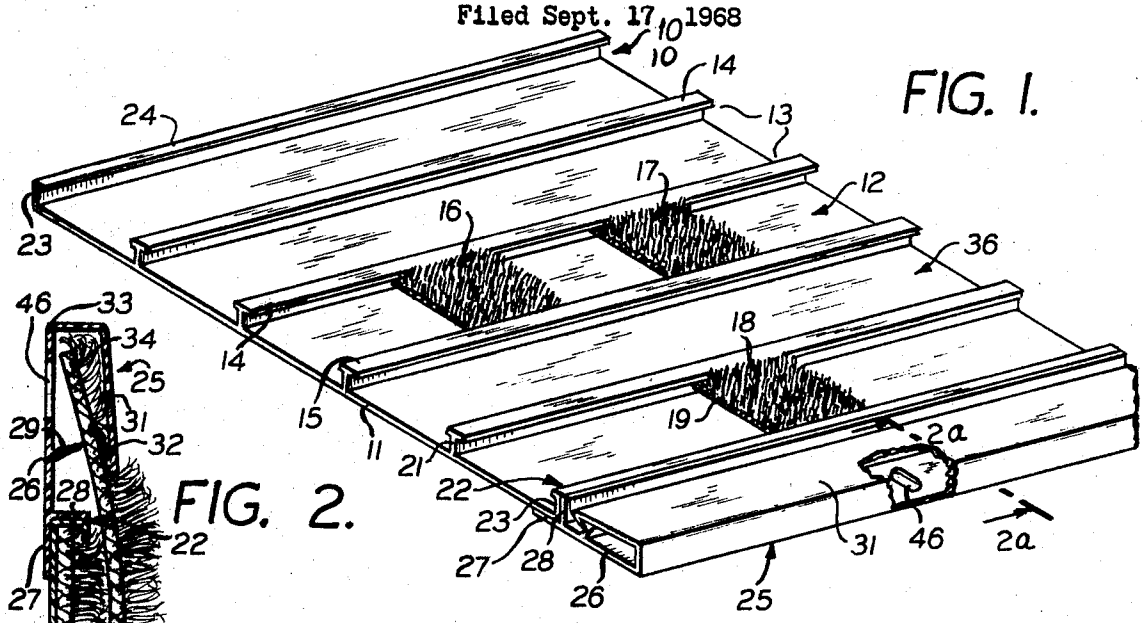


FIG. 2.

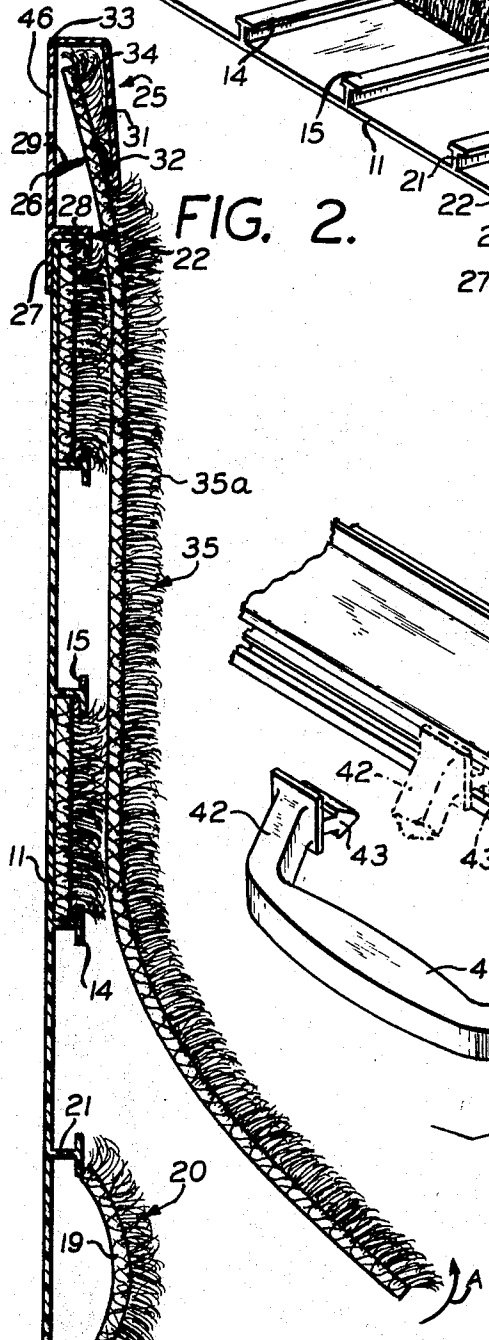


FIG. 2a.

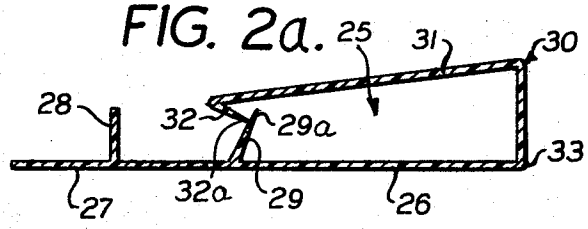
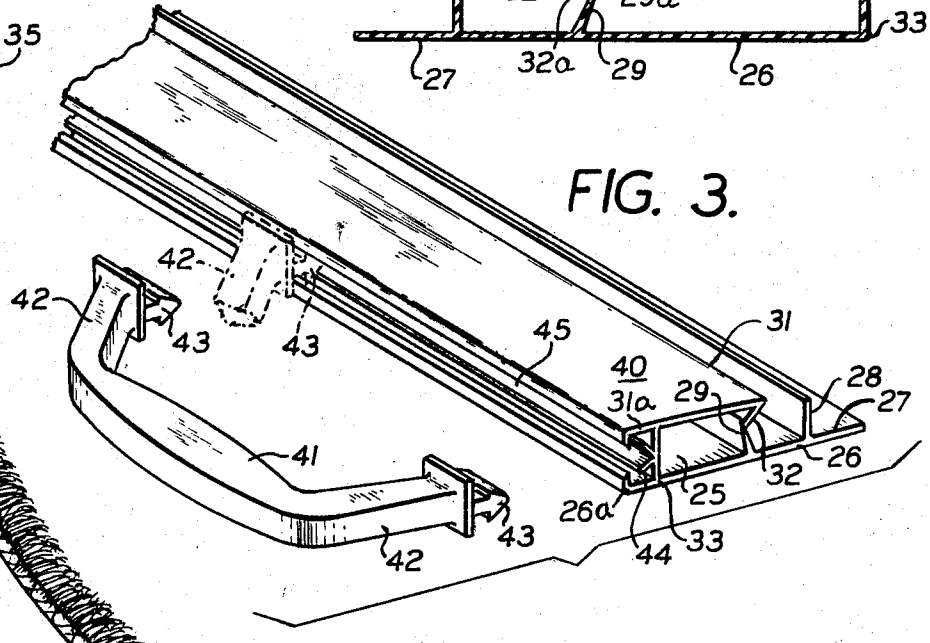


FIG. 3.



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DISPLAY DEVICE FOR CARPET SAMPLES

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U.S. Cl. 35—55 8 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A substantially flat carrier of extruded plastic having parallel ribs or rails which are profiled for retaining small swatches of carpets. The device clampingly receives a substantially larger sample carpet swatch so that comparison may be carried out for the customer.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention may be conformed to and is employable in a great variety of industries, such as carpet or broadloom manufacture, pile and other textile fabrics, plastic tiles, wall coverings made of plastic or paper materials and like matters, in particular, where a selection of a material has to be made prior to definite and final order by the purchaser.

It is therefore one of the objects of the invention to provide means affording a speedy and pleasing display system for selected material or materials simultaneously in various sample sizes and permitting ready exchange of such samples of material with respect to its holder or carrier.

It is another object of the invention to provide means conducive to a highly wear-resistant display device, which can be mass-produced, is easily stacked, is rather flat and not bulky for storage and shipping, is relatively inexpensive to manufacture, is bendable and flexible and can be readily incorporated in existing display organizations, if desired.

Still a further object of the invention is the provision of means facilitating effective and convenient mounting of carpet and like samples without the employment of any tools, adhesives and like accessories and of further means aiding in an efficient demonstration of such samples in supermarkets, stores or in the home.

A still further object of the invention resides in the provision of means permitting the use and re-use of carpet and like samples in display devices without subjecting the samples to punching or other injurious operations prior to their mounting, release or reassembly, so that the aforesaid samples become practically not deteriorated in any way, while being displayed and handled during demonstration.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide means resulting in a compact, but easily accessible and well-arranged display system for carpet swatches and similar material, which system allows for any desired sequential order of said swatches and the like with respect to the exposed display surface.

These and other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following detailed description of the drawing and the ensuing specification thereof, which are exemplary and explanatory of the principles of the invention and are in no way restrictive thereof.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

In the drawing:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a tray-shaped carrier for relative small and larger carpet swatches embodying the invention.

FIG. 2 is an enlarged elongated sectional view of the carrier of FIG. 1 with small and larger samples applied to said carrier.

FIG. 2*a* is an enlarged cross-section of box-shaped extension pursuant to the invention, the section being according to FIG. 2*a*—2*a*.

FIG. 3 indicates in an exploded and perspective view a handle and an extension piece disassociated from the carrier of FIG. 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Referring now in greater detail to the attached drawing there is disclosed in FIG. 1 a carrier or tray **10** of plastic material which is highly resistant to impact, may be flexed and is made preferably of extruded styrene and like plastic composition. The bottom wall **11** of the tray is substantially flat throughout, whereas the top wall **12** is provided with one or more tracks **13** each of which being constituted or formed by two adjacent profiled rail means **14**, which run in parallel relation to each other, as shown. Each rail is T-shaped in cross-section with a flat flanged head at **15**, but may have any other suitable configuration for the purpose of retaining between two adjacent rail means a plurality of colored swatches of carpet **16**, **17**, **18**, etc. Each of these swatches has a backing of yieldable material **19**, such as made of jute, rubber and similar substance, so that these swatches may be at first flexed, as seen in FIG. 2 at **20** and then inserted for engagement between adjacent rail means **21**, **22**, as it becomes clear from FIGS. 1 and 2.

Instead of flexing the swatches it is also possible to bend to a certain degree color tray **10** and then to insert the aforesaid swatches of carpet between adjacent rail means.

To end rail **22** provided with an upright end piece or ledge **23** and upper horizontal lip **24** directed toward the adjacent rail **21** there is adhesively attached or welded thereto an extension member **25**.

This member **25** may also be manufactured during extrusion together with tray **10** and can thus constitute a single extruded device, as is well understood.

As seen in FIGS. 1 and 2 clamp extension means **25** is affixed to the tray and consists in one preferred embodiment of a flat bottom **26** which is provided near one end **27** with one upright ledge **28** substantially coextensive with the aforesaid end ledge **23**. Clamp extension **25** is further defined by a thorn-like ledge **29**, which terminates in a sharp-ended edge **29***a* which is directed angularly and rearwardly toward the rear end **30** of box-shaped clamp extension **25** as more clearly depicted in fragmentary sectional view of FIG. 2*a*.

The upper flexible wall **31** of rear end **30** is inclined and forms a lip **32** directed toward end ledge **29**, in angle thereto, normally overlies the same in overlap relation and terminates in a sharp end edge **32***a*.

As illustrated in FIG. 2 wall **31** together with lip **32** may be flexed about end corner **33** and momentarily spread apart relative to ledge **29** in order to facilitate insertion of a respective end piece **34** of a relatively large carpet swatch **35**, which e.g. extends lengthwise and widthwise across the top of the aforesaid relative small carpet swatches **16**, **17**, **18**, **20**, etc. and top wall **12**. Thus box-shaped extension means **25** clampingly receives and retains end piece **34** of a large size carpet sample **35** which corresponds in all respects, such as to color, weave, etc. to small carpet swatch, say, **17** for comparison sake and other purposes.

It is well understood that sample **35** may be readily disengaged from clamp extension **25** and interchanged with another carpet sample, which corresponds to a swatch of reduced size, e.g. designated by numeral **16**,

or sample **35** may be swung or flipped over in the direction of arrow "A" in order to obtain access to the backing and/or swatches therebelow.

According to the invention it is also possible to insert between adjacent rail means a lengthy carpet swatch (not shown) which extends along any of the tracks **36** and thus exposes a swatch of an intermediate size. It is further well understood that carpet sample **35** may be engaged by and clamped in box-shaped extension **25** with the top face **35***a* facing all the tracks **13** and then swung back, if desired, for comparison and like demonstration purposes.

FIG. 3 discloses extension or holder means **40** with the same parts designated and as seen in FIG. 2*a*, but with the rearmost end of the extension means shaped to receive a handle **41** made of relative hard plastic material and suitable to be slid by means of the V-shaped ends **43** of ts legs **42** into correspondingly shaped end wall **44** of extension **40**. Top wall **31** and bottom wall **26** of extension piece **40**, in this instance, terminate in two substantially U-shaped and springy wall portions **31***a* and **26***a*, which are spaced apart from each other at slot **45** to facilitate also firm engagement of the handle ends **43** upon exertion of pressure thereof against the aforesaid wall portions at slot **45** and in the direction of and for location in V-shaped end wall **44**.

It is well understood that instead of a single ledge **29** extending within and across the box-shaped rear end **30** a plurality of spaced apart ledges may be provided, which may assume any suitable configurations (tooth-shape) for implementing increased retention of a sample piece or pieces within said read end **30**. The release of the sample **35** may be readily had by lifting or flexing apart top wall **31** together with lip **32** from ledge **29**, as may be easily realized.

As railheads **15** and cover **31** are substantially flush and level with each other the flat bottom **11** of one carrier body may be stacked on the top of another carrier body for storage and shipping purposes.

It is further to be noted, that carrier body **10** may be provided with an easle or like known support (not shown) or with an opening **46**, to either place said carrier in an inclined position on a counter or to facilitate suspension of said carrier from a wall, respectively.

It will be seen from the aforesaid disclosure, that there has been created according to the invention a very compact, highly efficient, inexpensive and useful carrier structure which lends itself to a great variety of applications in the display and other accessory industries and may be modified according to the purpose intended.

What is claimed is:

1. A display system for carpet and like samples of relative small and larger sizes characterized by a substantially tray-shaped carrier body having a top face provided with one or more tracks, each track being formed by profiled rail means offset with respect to said top face and extending in parallel reation to each other, said rail means being arranged in predetermined distance

to each other and being shaped to frictionally and clampingly engage between adjacent rail means at least one flat and yieldable carpet sample of a given length, the width of said sample corresponding to said distance between two adjacent rail means, and extension means connected to said carrier body at one end of the latter, said extension means being provided with clamp means located near said one end and being adapted to receive for retention by said clamp means one end edge of at least one carpet sample of relatively larger size than that of said one sample engaged by said adjacent rail means.

2. A display system according to claim **1**, said extension means forming a box-shaped extension piece directed parallel to and substantially coextensive with said tracks, said box-shaped extension piece carrying therewithin a sharp-edged ledge, and a cover on said extension piece provided with a sharp-edged lip normally engaging said ledge, whereby upon lifting said cover lip away from said ledge the end edge of said larger carpet sample may be clamped in position between said lip and said ledge.

3. A display system according to claim **2**, said sharp-edged ledge and said sharp-edged lip being angularly directed to and for contact with each other.

4. A display system accordng to claim **2**, said extension piece being provided with an offset ledge for abutment against and connection with a rail means located at said one end.

5. A display system according to claim **2**, said rail means and said cover being substantially flush with each other, the bottom of said tray-shaped carrier body being substantially flat, so that said body may be placed level with and on top of said rail means and said cover of another carrier body for stacking purposes.

6. A display system according to claim **1**, adjacent rail means being each provided with a flanged head to facilitate retention of a carpet sample therebeneath.

7. A display system according to claim **6**, said tray-shaped carrier body and said rail means being fabricated from an impact resistant, flexible plastic material, for enhancing the insertion and retention of a carpet sample during engagement by said rail means.

8. A display system according to claim **1**, wherein said extension means is provided in its bottom with an opening to facilitate suspension of the same.

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U.S. Cl. X.R.

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