Oct. 27, 1953 H. DETJE 2,656,632

PICTURE FRAME

Filed June 30, 1950

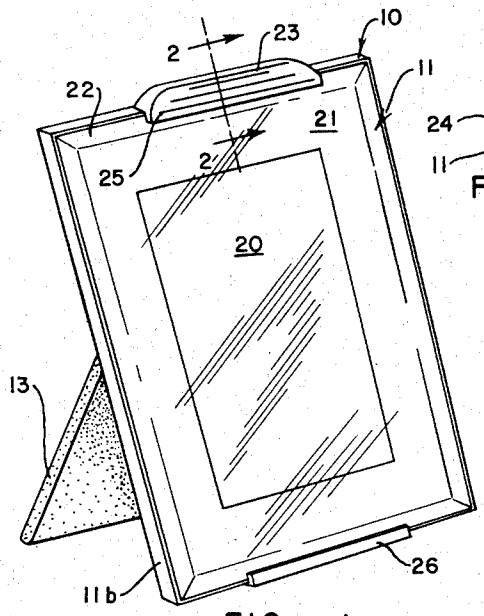


FIG.—1

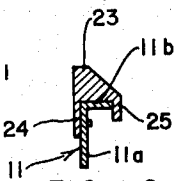


FIG.—2

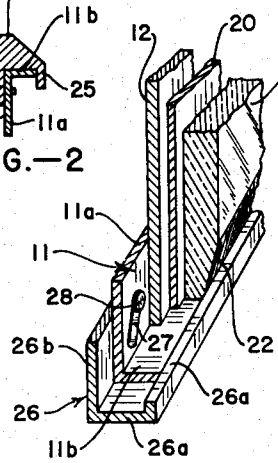


FIG.—3

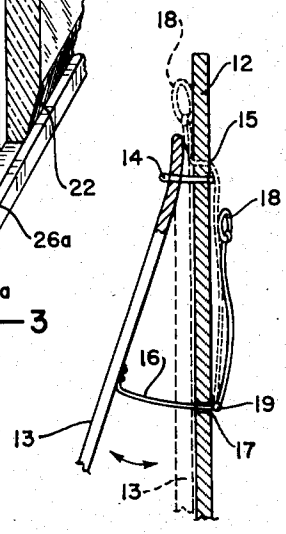


FIG.—6

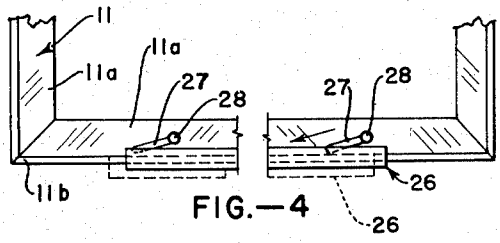


FIG.—4

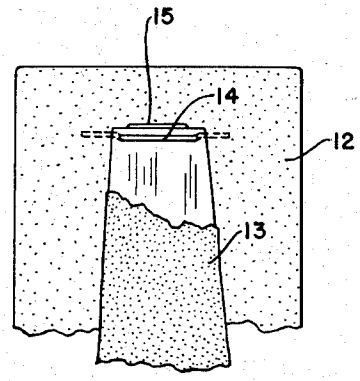


FIG.—5

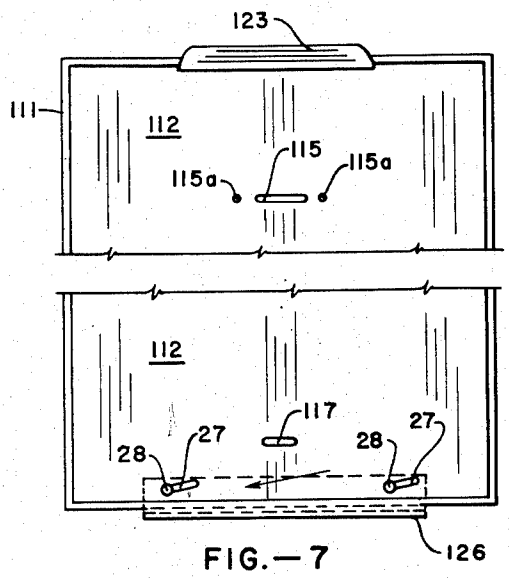


FIG.—7

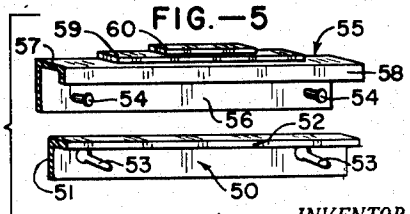


FIG.—8

INVENTOR.
Henry Detje

BY

ATTORNEY

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PICTURE FRAME

Henry Detje, Denver, Colo.

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3 Claims. (Cl. 40—156)

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The present invention relates to picture frames. It has to do particularly, although not exclusively, with picture frames having open front portions closed by glass or other transparent panels having preferably bevelled edges, using single or double strength thread.

One of the objects of the present invention is to provide a new and improved picture frame of the foregoing character wherein the component parts forming the entire picture frame, including the picture therein, are easily assembled and held in operative relationship by means carried by the frame portion of the structure preferably at diametrically opposed portions thereof.

A further object of the present invention is to provide an improved picture frame in accordance with the preceding paragraph, wherein one of the means for holding the parts in assembled relationship is preferably immovable, and wherein the other means for this purpose is movable or adjustable relative to the frame to permit assembly and disassembly of the parts.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an improved picture frame of the foregoing character having improved combined means for supporting the frame in upright position upon a flat, or the like, supporting surface or for suspendingly supporting the picture frame on an upright surface, such as a wall.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an improved picture frame in which the backing member or portion of the frame may be formed integral with the surrounding frame member or portion; another object of the invention being to provide the backing portion or member and the surrounding frame portion or member as separate parts capable of assembly and disassembly.

A further object of the present invention is to provide an improved ornamentally attractive frame which is of relatively simple construction, of durable nature, and relatively inexpensive to manufacture.

The foregoing and other objects and advantages of the present invention will appear from the following description and appended claims when considered in connection with the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification, wherein like reference characters designate corresponding parts in the several views.

In said drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view of the picture frame of Fig. 1, being taken substantially along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, looking in the direction of the arrows, with the backing plate or member, the picture, and the transparent face plate of the frame assembly being omitted.

Fig. 3 is a detail perspective view, on an enlarged scale, showing a part of the lower portion of the picture frame and assembled picture of Fig. 1, and indicating the relative position of

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the parts in the region of the movable means for holding the parts in assembled relationship.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary front elevational view, partly broken away, illustrating the lower portion of the picture frame of Fig. 1 and indicating the two extreme positions of the movable means for maintaining the component parts of the picture frame in assembled relationship.

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary rear elevational view of the removable backing plate or member and the improved picture frame supporting means embodying the invention.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view through a portion of the backing plate of the picture frame assembly and indicating the easel-like supporting member in operative position in full lines and wth the suspending means for the frame structure in operative position in broken lines.

Fig. 7 is a front elevational view, partly broken away, of a somewhat modified form of picture frame embodying the present invention, wherein the surrounding portion or portions of the frame and the backing plate or member thereof are formed as an integral structure, the clamping member at the bottom being shown in open position; and

Fig. 8 is an exploded perspective view of a somewhat modified form of ornamental clamping means embodying the invention.

Before explaining in detail the present invention it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and arrangement of parts illustrated in the accompanying drawing, since the invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced or carried out in various ways. It is to be understood also that the phraseology or terminology employed herein is for the purpose of description and not of limitation, and it is not intended to limit the invention claimed herein beyond the requirements of the prior art.

With particular reference to Figs. 1 through 5 of the drawing, 10 represents, as a whole, one form of picture frame assembly embodying the present invention. As shown, this assembly includes a surrounding frame member or portion 11 which, as shown, is generally of angle formation having a back flange 11*a* and a right angularly disposed side flange 11*b*. The backing plate, in the present form of the invention is a separate member and is indicated as a whole at 12 in Figs. 3, 5 and 6. The backing plate 12 carries an easel-like supporting member 13 which is swingably attached at its upper end to member 12 preferably by means of a bent relatively stiff wire member 14. It will be understood that the easel-like member can be swung from its full line position of Fig. 6 to its broken line position in that figure, namely from a picture frame-supporting position to an inoperative position.

The picture frame supporting means of the present invention is of improved nature and provides combined means for either supporting the picture frame 10 upon a plane surface in an

upright position or for suspendingly supporting or hanging the picture frame upon an upright surface, such as a wall. The backing plate or member 12 is provided with a horizontal slot or opening 15, see Figs. 5 and 6, preferably in a position adjacent the upper end of the easel-like member 13 and preferably concealed by the upper end thereof, as best seen in Fig. 6. The slot 15 is exposed in Fig. 5 and appears to be positioned above the upper end of member 13. This illustration is merely for purposes of clarity and it is preferable to have the slot 15 concealed beneath the easel-like member 13, as seen in Fig. 6. A length of tape or other flexible material 16 is secured to the inner surface of easel member 13 and extends through a second slot 17 formed in backing plate 12. The tape 16 extends upwardly as seen in Fig. 6 and is provided at its upper end with a ring or loop 18. The tape is also provided with a stop member, such as a pin 19, to prevent the easel member 13 from being swung outwardly away from backing plate 12 beyond the position in which it is shown in Fig. 6. When it is desirable to support the picture frame upon a plane surface, the easel 13 is employed in its full line position. When, however, it is desirable to hang the picture upon a wall surface, the ring or loop 18 is passed through slot 15 and moved to its broken line position of Fig. 6, whereupon it can be applied to a picture hook, nail or the like to suspendingly support the frame. In this latter condition, it will be understood that the easel-like member lies flat against the backing plate 12, as seen in broken lines in Fig. 6.

The picture frame and picture assembly of the form of the present invention shown in Fig. 1, includes, in addition to the parts previously described, the picture itself, indicated at 20 and a transparent facing member, preferably glass, as indicated at 21. It is desirable to bevel this transparent member or glass panel, as indicated at 22, see particularly Fig. 3.

The surrounding frame member 11 carries at its upper portion an ornamental glass panel-engaging and supporting member 23. This member 23 has a back depending flange 24 which permits it to be riveted, welded, or otherwise secured to the upright flange 11*a* of the surrounding frame member 11, and a front relatively shorter depending flange or downward projection 25, see Fig. 2 which is adapted to engage the bevelled portion 22 of the glass panel when the parts are assembled.

The movable glass panel-engaging means or member is preferably carried by the surrounding frame 11 at a point generally diametrically opposite the non-moving member 23. This movable or adjustable means or member is shown as a whole at 26 and is preferably in the form of an angle, having a base portion 26*a*, an upstanding rear flange or portion 26*b* and a front upstanding flange or portion 26*c*. The member 26 may be of any desired length but is preferably generally equal in length to the opposed member 23.

It is to be noted particularly in Figs. 3 and 4 of the drawing that the upright flange or portion 11*a* of the surrounding frame member 11 is provided with a pair of angularly disposed so-called cam slots or openings 27 which are inclined gradually from the bottom flange 11*b* upwardly toward the top edge of the rear flange 11*a*.

The movable or adjustable clamping member 26 is provided with a pair of headed pins or members 28 which are, as shown, carried by the rear upright flange 26*b* thereof and which pins

extend through the slots 27. Thus it will be seen that the clamping member 26 is capable of being moved relative to frame 11 and during this movement will travel longitudinally with relation to the frame and will also move angularly toward and away from the flange 11*b* thereof. The two extreme positions of the member 26 are indicated in full and in broken lines in Fig. 4.

When it is desired to assemble the parts of the picture frame, the removable backing plate or member 12 with its picture frame supporting means is placed within the surrounding frame member 11 so that the backing member engages the back flange 11*a*. The picture 20 is now placed in position upon the backing member, whereupon the bevel edged transparent panel or glass member 21 is laid in position upon the other assembled parts. It will be understood that one extremity of each of the members 12, 20 and 21 underlies the depending flange 25 of the ornamental frame member 23. By slight pressure upon the opposite end of the transparent panel 21, the parts are all moved toward the flange 11*a* of the surrounding frame member, whereupon the clamping member or bar 26 is moved from its broken line position of Fig. 4 to its full line position in that figure. In this latter position, the front upright flange or projection 26*c* of member 26 will firmly engage the bevelled portion 22 of the glass panel 21, holding the parts in their assembled positions, as indicated in Figs. 1 and 3 of the drawing. When it is desirable to remove the component parts of the picture frame assembly, it is merely necessary to grasp the retaining bar 26 and shift it from its full line position of Fig. 4 to the broken line position of that figure, whereupon the several parts can be removed from the surrounding picture frame member 11.

It is to be understood that whereas it is relatively easy to shift the clamping member 26 relative to the frame member 11, the slot and pins have a relatively snug fit to produce frictional contact. This will cause the member 26 to remain in either of its extreme positions without any danger of its accidental movement relative to the frame member 11.

While the slots 27 and the pins 28 of the cooperating parts have been shown as being located in the rear or upright flange 11*a* of the surrounding frame member 11, it will be understood that these or similar parts may be provided in the right angularly disposed surrounding flange 11*b*. That is to say that the slots 27 may be provided in the flange 11*b* and that the pins 28 may be carried by the bottom flange or portion 26*a* of the adjustable clamping member 26.

With particular reference now to Fig. 7 of the drawing, there is shown in this figure a slightly modified form of picture frame embodying the present invention. In this form of the invention the backing plate 112 is preferably formed integral with the surrounding frame member 111. The surrounding frame member carries an ornamental member 123 which corresponds to the member 23 of Fig. 1 and there is provided a movable or adjustable clamping member 126 which corresponds to the clamping member 26 of the preceding form of the invention. It is to be noted that the backing member 112 is provided with a horizontal slot or opening 115 and with two holes or openings 115*a* disposed at the ends of the slot. These openings 115*a* are provided for the purpose of receiving the leg portions of a preferably stiff wire hinge member (not shown) which is similar to the member 14 of Figs. 5 and 6, said member

being provided for the purpose of holding an easel-like member to the back 112 of the frame assembly in substantially the same manner as in connection with the preceding form of the invention. Member 126 is shown in open position.

The elongated opening or slot 115 is provided for the purpose of permitting the ring member 18 and tape 16 of the combined supporting device to be passed through the backing plate 112 from the interior thereof to the exterior thereof when it is desirable to support the frame of Fig. 7 upon a wall surface. The backing member 112 is also provided with a slot 117 to permit the tape (not shown) similar to tape 16 to be passed from one side of the plate to the other side to support the easel member (not shown).

While I have disclosed the use of a transparent panel, such as glass panel 21 which has bevelled surrounding edges, it will be understood that a plain sheet or panel of glass, without any bevelling, may be substituted. It is merely necessary that the opposed edges of the glass panel be engaged by the non-movable ornamental frame member 23 and by the movable or adjustable, as well as ornamental clamping member 26.

While I have shown a more or less conventional oblong type of picture frame in the accompanying drawing, it is to be understood that the frame may be of any desired shape. It may be square, oval, or round.

Whereas I prefer to employ metal for forming the frame portions 11, 111, 112, 23, 26, 123 and 126, with said metal being highly polished to provide a pleasing and attractive finish, other suitable materials may be employed from which to make these members.

With particular reference to Fig. 8 of the drawing, there is shown a somewhat modified form of adjustable and removable frame ornamenting clamping member, or the like. A member such as is shown in fragmentary detail in Fig. 8 may be employed at the upper end of the frame to replace either of the ornamental members 23 or 123 of the preceding forms of the invention.

A portion or short section at the upper side of the surrounding or marginal frame member of the structure is shown as a whole at 50 in Fig. 8. This frame member is generally similar to frame member 11 of Fig. 1 and comprises an angle-like member having an upright flange 51 and a somewhat shorter outwardly projecting flange 52. The flange 51 is provided with a pair of upwardly inclined key hole slots 53, 53 whose larger upper ends admit the heads of studs or pins 54 carried by the removable ornamental clamping member, shown as a whole at 55. This member 55, as shown, has an upright or back flange portion 56 which carries the studs or pins 54, a forwardly projecting flange or portion 57 and a relatively short forward depending flange 58, which latter is adapted to engage over the adjacent edge of the glass and hold it in place when the ornamental clamping member 55 is moved to its operative position with relation to the frame 50. As shown, the top or horizontal flange 57 is provided with any suitable ornamentation, such as the attached or integral pieces or members 59 and 60, seen in Fig. 8.

It will be understood that to apply the member 55 to the upper portion of frame 50, the heads of the pins 54 are aligned with the larger ends of the key hole slots 53, inserted therein, whereupon the member 55 is moved relative to frame member 50 which causes member 55 to move into engagement with member 50 and also brings the flange 58 into position to engage the glass arranged in the picture frame. It is not necessary to separate the member 55 from frame member 50 in order to release the glass but by making the member 55 completely removable, it will be seen that another generally similar member having a different style of ornamentation from that represented by the strips 59 and 60, may be substituted.

When the type of adjustable and removable clamping member shown in Fig. 8 is employed with one of the picture frames of the preceding views, it may be unnecessary to provide an adjustable clamping member, such as either of the members 26 or 126, at the opposite side of the picture frame. It may, however, be desirable in some instances to provide adjustable clamping members at opposed sides of the frame, although ordinarily one such member which is movable or adjustable and/or removable, will suffice.

With further reference to Fig. 8, it will be noted that the flange 52 of member 50 is relatively narrow, thus permitting the moving away of member 55 a sufficient distance from member 50 to release or free the heads of pins 54 from the enlarged ends of the cam-like slots 53.

I claim:

1. A surrounding frame member for a picture frame assembly, comprising a back flange and a side flange disposed at right angles to each other, an ornamental transparent panel-engaging member carried by one side of the frame member and immovable with respect thereto, and a movable panel-engaging member disposed at the opposite side of the frame, said last-named member and said frame having cooperating cam slots and pins whereby to permit said member to be shifted relative to said frame member to engage or disengage a transparent panel carried by the frame member to hold the panel in the frame member or to release the same from said frame member.

2. A surrounding frame member according to claim 1, wherein the slots are provided in the frame member, and wherein the cooperating pins are carried by the movable panel-engaging member.

3. A picture frame provided with means for holding it in upright position and comprising a surrounding frame member, a backing plate within said frame member, means carried by said frame member for engaging a transparent panel member associated with the surrounding frame member, and movable means also carried by said frame member at an opposite side thereof for engagement with said transparent panel member to removably support the transparent panel member in position with relation to the frame member, said frame member and said movable means having cooperating slots and pins to permit said movable means to be shifted simultaneously in longitudinal and transverse directions relative to said surrounding frame member.

HENRY DETJE.

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