

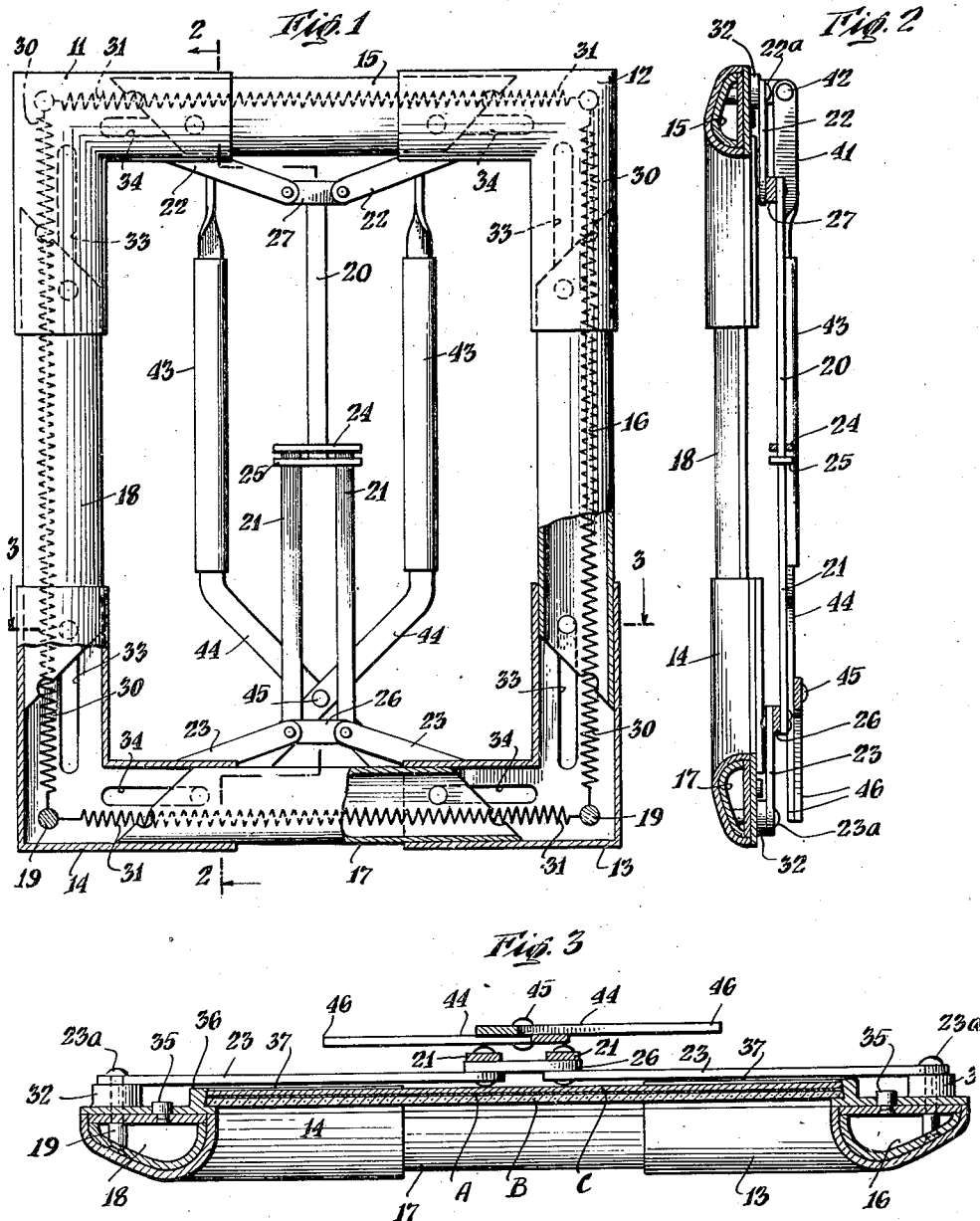
June 8, 1948.

E. BARASCH ET AL
ADJUSTABLE PICTURE FRAME

2,442,967

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3 Sheets-Sheet 1



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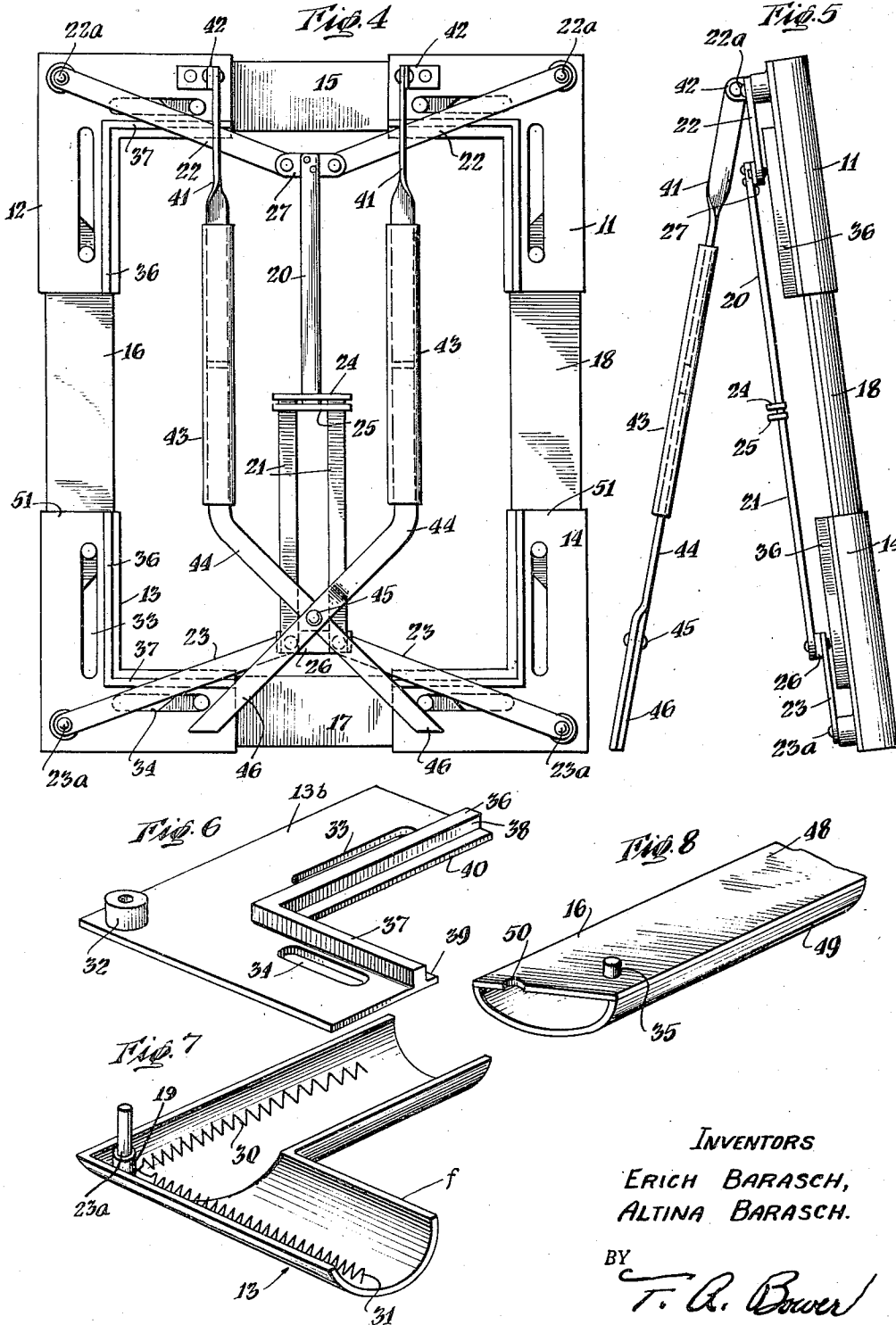
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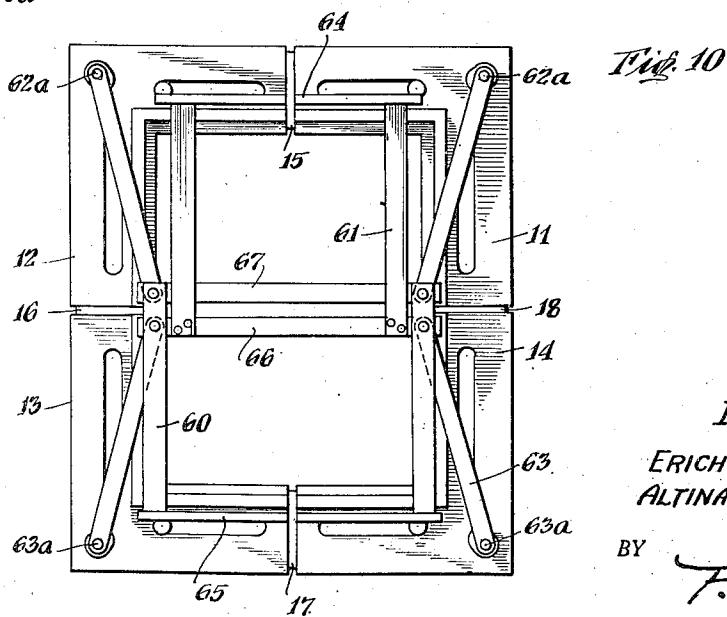
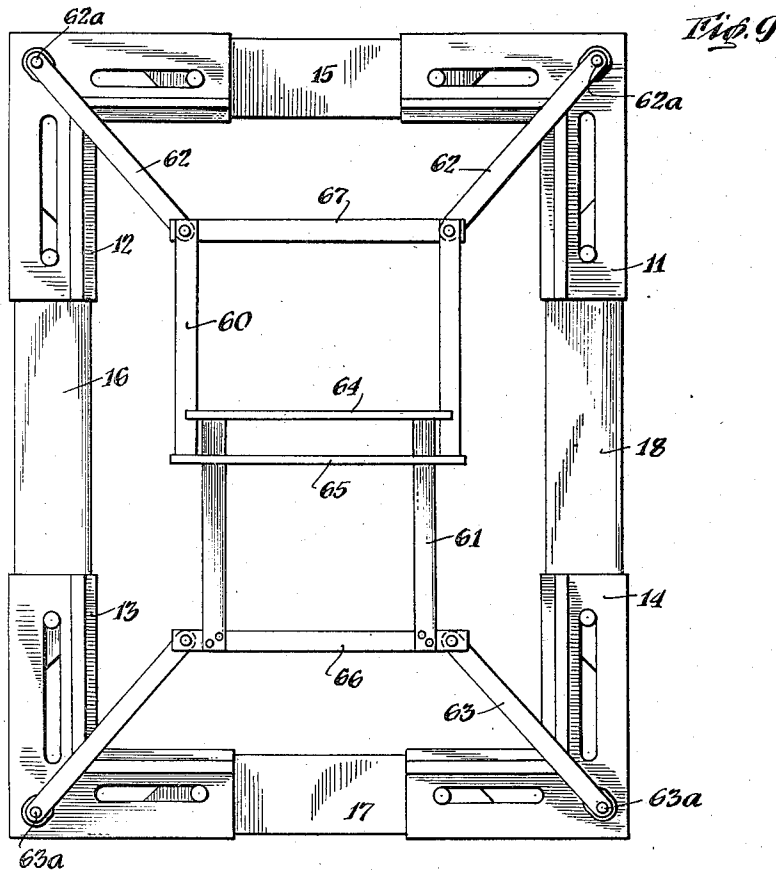
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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ADJUSTABLE PICTURE FRAME

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2 Claims. (Cl. 40—155)

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This invention relates to picture frames, and particularly to frames adjustable to different sizes of pictures.

The object of the invention is to provide a frame and picture combination in which the frame automatically fits the picture within a wide range of sizes of the latter.

In the accompanying drawings illustrating the invention

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of one embodiment;
Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a horizontal sectional view on enlarged scale taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a rear elevational view of the frame shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is a side elevation of the same;

Figs. 6, 7 and 8 are perspective views on enlarged scale of parts of the frame shown in Figs. 1 to 5;

Fig. 9 is a rear elevational view of a modified form of frame;

Fig. 10 is a view similar to Fig. 9 but showing the frame in an adjustment to a smaller picture.

In the embodiment of the invention shown in Figs. 1 to 8, the frame comprises four right-angled corner pieces 11, 12, 13 and 14 carrying slidably between them the connecting pieces 15, 16, 17 and 18.

To aid in adjustment of these corner pieces to fit different sizes of pictures, a rear linkage is provided comprising a rod 20 and rods 21 slidably joined by cross heads 24 of the rods 21 and 25 of the rod 20 as shown. The lower ends of the rods 21 are joined by the end block 26 and the upper end of the rod 20 is provided with the end block 27 connected by pivoted links 22 to the studs 22a carried by the corner pieces 11 and 12, while the lower block 26 is connected by the pivoted links 23 to the corner pins 23a of pieces 13 and 14.

Any relative horizontal adjustment of the corner pieces will be permitted by a corresponding angular adjustment of the links 22, 23 and a sliding movement of the rods 20, 21, this being also true for any simultaneous vertical relative adjustment of the corner pieces within the permissible range of the movement of these parts. During such adjustment vertical and horizontal symmetry will be maintained by the linkages 20, 21, 22 and 23.

To make this simultaneous symmetrical adjustment automatic, the corner pieces are connected by vertical springs 30 and horizontal springs 31 attached to the corner studs 19 provided in each

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of the corner pieces and always tending to slide these corner pieces together and bring the frame to its minimum size. These vertical and horizontal springs extend from corner piece to corner piece, passing through the connecting pieces and acting to grip the ledges or ridges 36, 37 of the corner pieces on the edges of the picture card to hold the latter in place. The relatively slidable portions of this rear framework may be engaged by the hand of the user to spread the peripheral sections of the frame to desired amount to receive the picture mounting A, B and/or C.

Each of the corner pieces carries toward its inner edges a vertical rod piece 36 and a horizontal ridge piece 37. The inner faces 38, 39 of each are undercut as shown to engage the corners of the picture A with its back C and transparent face piece B (Fig. 3). It is only necessary for the user to spread the frame parts against the tensions of the springs 30, 31 to sufficient size to receive the picture parts within the undercut surfaces 38, 39 and then to release the frame to grip the edges of the picture parts at all four corners with the snug resilient pressure, the parts of the frame then automatically and symmetrically assuming their positions corresponding to the vertical and horizontal dimensions of the picture. A large range of picture sizes is thus automatically accommodated, for instance from about $2\frac{1}{8}$ to $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches in width and from $2\frac{5}{8}$ to $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in height in the frame shown in Fig. 1.

The structural features shown in the drawings are typical and may be modified as desired. As shown in Figs. 6 and 7, the corner pieces are formed of a rear plate 13b and a front semi-tubular structure f. Vertical slots 33 in the rear plates b and the horizontal slots 34 of these plates receive the pins 35 of the rear plates 48 of the connector members 15, 16, 17 and 18 to limit the expansion of the frame. Each back plate 13b is provided with a rigid bushing 32 receiving the pivot pins 23a carried by the studs 19. The connector members 15, 16, 17 and 18 have their back plates 48 fastened to the front sections 49 and are provided with notches 50 receiving the studs 19 in contracted position of the parts.

Rear struts or supports to maintain the frame in standing position may be fastened to either the lower or upper corner pieces. For instance, such supports may be attached to the upper portions 51 of the lower corner pieces 13 and 14, or, as shown in the drawings, the rear support may be pivoted from the inner portions of the upper corner pieces 11, 12. In this showing the strips

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41 pivoted to the upper corner pieces 11, 12 at pivoted brackets 42 slide with tight friction in the sleeves 43, the lower portions of which also frictionally receive the bent strips 44 pivoted at 45 and adjusted to such length that their lower ends 46 provide the desired support. The strips 41 and 44 slide in the sleeves 43 to any desired adjustment depending upon the desired size and inclination of the frame.

As shown in Figs. 9 and 10 the rear framework may be provided by vertical members 60 connecting the end beam 67 with the cross head 65 and pivoted to the links 62 swiveling on the pins 62a carried by the corner pieces 11, 12. The lower frame is provided by the vertical strips 61 connecting cross head 64 with the end beam 66 to which are pivoted the links 63 swiveling on the pins 63a carried by the corner pieces 13 and 14, the remainder of the frame being as shown in Figs. 1 to 8 inclusive. The cross head 64 slides on the members 60 and the cross head 65 slides on the strips 61, the frame taking the extreme positions of adjustment as shown extended in Fig. 9 and retracted in Fig. 10. The rear framework of Figs. 9 and 10 has the advantage of being more readily grasped by the hand of the user to adjust the frame parts in fully retracted position. The end blocks 66, 67 are well within the upper and lower edges of the frame proper, whereas in the retracted position of the sections of the frame shown in Figs. 1 to 8, the cross heads 64, 65 protrude to very near extreme end edges of the outer frame.

This self-fitting frame may be used for a large number of different sizes of pictures and will automatically accommodate itself within the range of movement of the parts. The user has merely to slide the sections slightly apart enough to permit removal of the contained picture and press the parts to position open enough to receive the new picture whereupon release of the opening pressure will permit the sections automatically to move together to grip the new picture parts. No gluing, nailing, latching or unlatching is required, and all of the parts automatically respond together to maintain both vertical and horizontal symmetry of the frame for all adjustments.

We claim:

1. A picture frame structure having at least

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four corner pieces and intervening side pieces, all of similar hollow formation in transverse section and of symmetrical configuration vertically and horizontally with free slidable telescopic engagement between said corner pieces and intervening side pieces to permit adjustment of the size of the frame vertically and horizontally while maintaining the vertical and horizontal symmetry of the frame pieces in all adjustments thereof, the spacing between the corner pieces in any adjustment being a minor proportion of the length of the frame in that adjustment, means forming holding surfaces adjacent the inner periphery of said frame structure adapted to engage against the peripheral edges of a picture to position the frame pieces thereon, and resilient means running through and enclosed in the hollow corner and side pieces and extending between said corner pieces to resiliently draw them toward each other and maintain pressure between said holding surfaces and the edges of the picture.

2. A picture frame structure as set forth in claim 1 in which the corner pieces are formed to slide over the ends of the intervening side pieces and are proportioned to substantially entirely house said side pieces in the extreme contracted position of the parts.

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