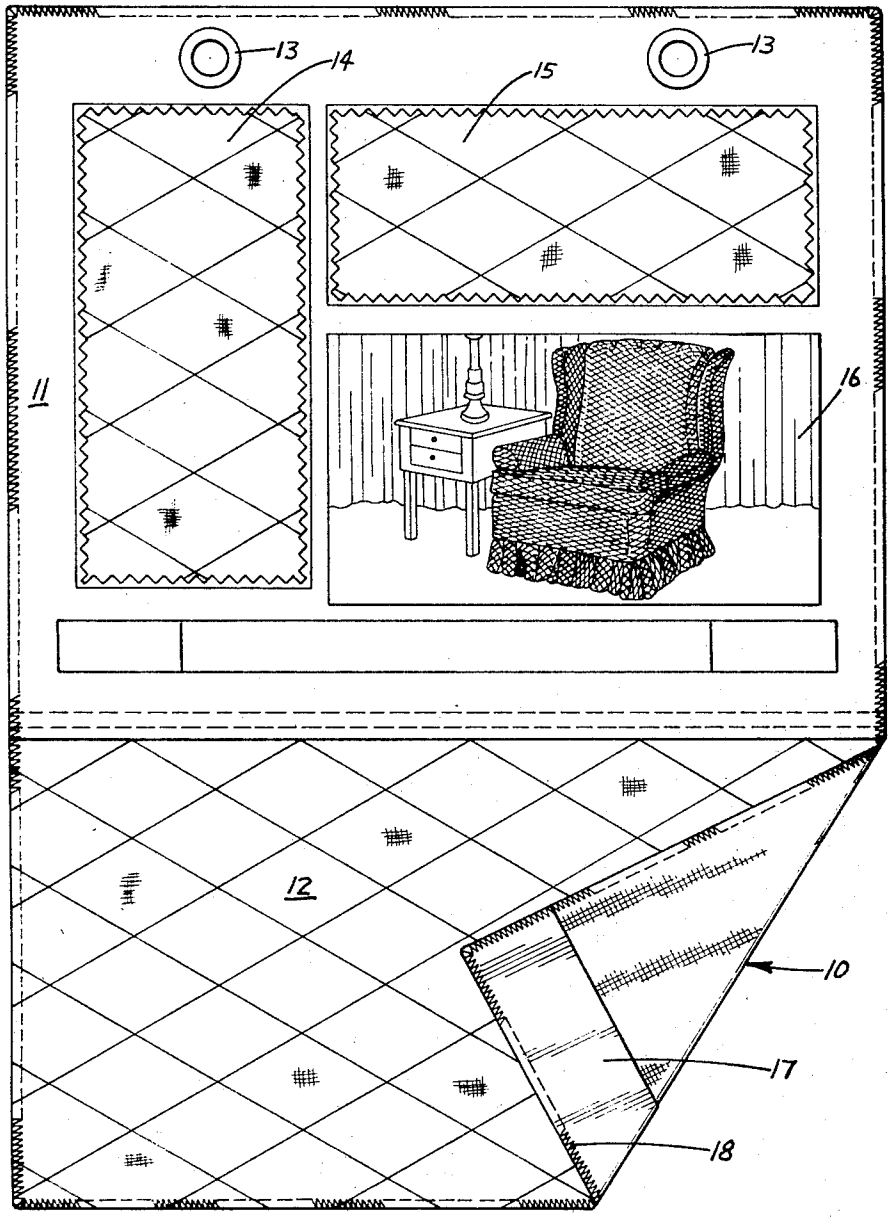
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FABRIC DISPLAY DEVICE

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FABRIC DISPLAY DEVICE

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A coordinated display device for exhibiting fabric samples for use in upholstering and slip-covering furniture and the like and facilitating selection of fabrics for such purposes which includes a number of swatches of fabric of the same pattern but different dominant colors, one of the swatches being of substantially larger size and free hanging to permit feeling of the fabric, the display being characterized by the presence of a color picture in close proximity to the larger swatch of fabric illustrating a piece of furniture covered in fabric which is preferably of the same pattern and dominant color as the larger swatch.

This invention relates to a coordinated display device for exhibiting samples of fabric for use in custom upholstering, slip-covering and the like and for facilitating selection of fabrics by permitting the fabric customer to visualize the general appearance of a piece of furniture covered in the fabric on display. Many home owners prefer furniture covered with individually selected fabrics which match or blend with a preselected color scheme or decor or otherwise satisfy some personal preference of the buyer. The average buyer, however, is handicapped in the selection of fabric because he has difficulty in envisioning how a given piece of furniture will look when covered with a particular fabric. This is made somewhat more difficult by virtue of the fact that, in most instances, only a relatively small sample swatch of the fabric is available at the time and place when the decision must be made.

Many customers are probably deterred from selecting custom upholstered furniture for this very reason, and perhaps select furniture upholstered with a less suitable fabric merely because it is in stock and can be seen in finished form. The present invention is directed toward alleviating this situation by permitting the customer to more readily visualize the overall appearance of furniture upholstered in a particular piece of fabric, of which only sample swatches are available at the time of selection and decision.

The invention is illustrated in the single figure of the accompanying drawing which shows the display device in front elevation with one corner turned back to show a portion of the structure of the back.

Referring to the drawing, the display device, indicated generally at **10**, comprises a generally rectangular and flexible backing sheet **11** to the bottom edge of which is secured, as by sewing or the like, a relatively large free hanging swatch of fabric **12** which is of a given pattern and is of one dominant color. The backing sheet **11** is desirably formed of smooth plastic-coated cloth fabric for strength and stability. The coated face may be white or any appropriate color which is not in conflict with the colors of the fabric being displayed.

Fastening means, such as a pair of spaced apart grommets **13** located near the top edge of the backing sheet and spaced inwardly from the side edges, are provided for releasably suspending the fabric display from a display rack. In most instances, the display rack includes a pair of parallel horizontal rods supported from one end by any suitable standard from which a plurality of fabric display units may be suspended. Any particular fabric display unit is easily removed from that rack for closer inspection of the fabric or the like.

The relatively larger sample swatch **12** of fabric is free hanging being suspended from the bottom edge of the backing sheet **11**. This free hanging swatch is of the same width as the backing sheet and hangs with its side edges in generally vertical alignment with the side edges of the backing sheet.

A plurality of other relatively smaller swatches of fabric **14** and **15** are secured to the face of the backing sheet, usually by adhesive. These other swatches of fabric have the same pattern or design as the larger free hanging swatch **12** but each has a different dominant color from the color of the larger free hanging swatch **12**. The number and size of the smaller swatches may vary depending upon the particular pattern and the number of dominant colors in which that particular pattern is available. They may be displayed in any convenient arrangement.

A colored picture or other illustration **16**, preferably a colored photograph or print, is secured to the face of the backing sheet **11** in close proximity to the free hanging swatch **12**. In most instances, the illustration **16** is a copy or print of a colored photograph adhesively secured to the face of the backing sheet **11**. In each instance, the illustration **16** shows one or more pieces of upholstered or slip-covered furniture covered in the fabric of the same pattern and of the same dominant color as the free hanging swatch **12**. In this manner, a customer deciding upon the selection of a particular fabric not only sees the fabric itself but can see how that fabric looks when actually used as the covering of a piece of furniture. Preferably the colored illustration **16** shows the covered furniture in a natural home setting or arrangement with other accessories such as carpeting, draperies, lamps, tables, etc. as likely to be encountered in the actual home setting.

Appropriate indicia is desirably imprinted upon the face of backing sheet **11** in any appropriate color contrasting with the face coating of the backing sheet. Such indicia supplies information with respect to the fabric such as identifying numbers, available colors, fiber composition, fabric width, price, fabric or pattern name, special finishing, supplier's identification, and the like.

The bottom edge of the back face of the free hanging fabric swatch **12** is desirably provided with a narrow flexible reinforcing backing strip **17** extending across the width of the swatch. Strip **17** is desirably adhesively secured. It is disposed generally parallel to the bottom edge of backing sheet **11**. In order that the customer may still feel the weight and texture and "hand" of the fabric, the strip is desirably spaced from the bottom of the backing sheet by a distance at least three times the width of the strip. The edges of the backing sheet **11** of the free handing fabric swatch **12** and of the reinforcing strip **17** are desirably bound, preferably with an overcast stitch **18** extending around the perimeter of the fabric display device.

It is apparent that many modifications and variations of this invention as hereinbefore set forth may be made without departing from the spirit and scope thereof. The specific embodiments described are given by way of example only and the invention is limited only by the terms of the appended claims.

We claim:

1. A coordinated display device for exhibiting fabric samples and facilitating selection of fabrics, said device comprising:

(A) a generally rectangular and flexible backing sheet;

(B) means at the top of said backing sheet for releasably suspending said device from a display rack;

(C) a free hanging swatch of fabric of one dominant color suspended from the bottom edge of said backing sheet;

(D) said free hanging swatch being of the same width as said backing sheet and secured thereto across the bottom thereof;

(E) the sides of the free hanging swatch being in generally vertical alignment with the sides of the backing sheet;

(F) a plurality of swatches of fabric of the same pattern as the free hanging swatch of fabric secured to said backing sheet;

(G) each of said plurality of swatches being of smaller size than and having a different dominant color from the color of the free hanging swatch;

(H) a colored picture of a piece of upholstered furniture secured to the face of the backing sheet in close proximity to the free hanging swatch;

(I) the piece of furniture illustrated therein being covered with fabric of the same pattern and same dominant color as one of said swatches.

2. A device according to claim **1** further characterized in that a narrow flexible reinforcing backing strip is secured to the back of said free hanging swatch across the bottom edge thereof, said strip being parallel to the bottom of the backing sheet and spaced therefrom by a distance of at least three times the width of the strip.

3. A device according to claim **2** further characterized in that the edges of said backing sheet, free hanging swatch and reinforcing strip are bound with an overcast stitch extending around the perimeter of the device.

4. A device according to claim **1** further characterized in that said suspending means comprise a pair of grommets evenly spaced from the top edge of the backing sheet and evenly spaced inwardly from the side edges thereof.

5. A device according to claim **1** further characterized in that said backing sheet is opaque smooth coated cloth fabric bearing indicia upon its face identifying the fabric of the swatches, said identifying indicia being in color contrasting to that of the opaque coating.

6. A device according to claim **1** further characterized in that the piece of upholstered furniture illustrated in said colored picture is covered with fabric of the same pattern and same dominant color as the free hanging swatch.

7. A device according to claim **1** further characterized in that said plurality of swatches of fabric of the same pattern but different dominant color from the free hanging swatch are secured to the face of the backing sheet adjacent to the colored picture.

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