April 22, 1958 J. EISNER 2,831,286

DEVICE FOR MODELLING IN CLAY

Filed Feb. 24, 1954

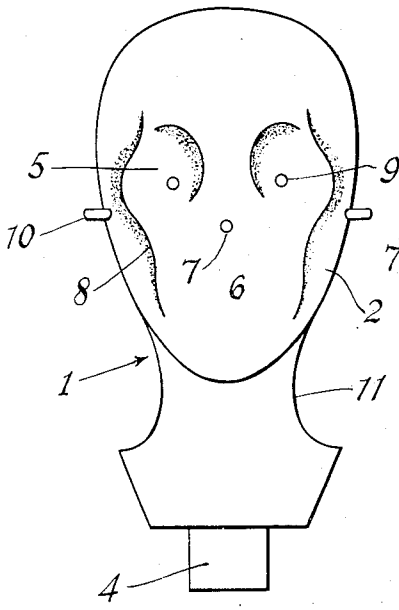


FIG. 1

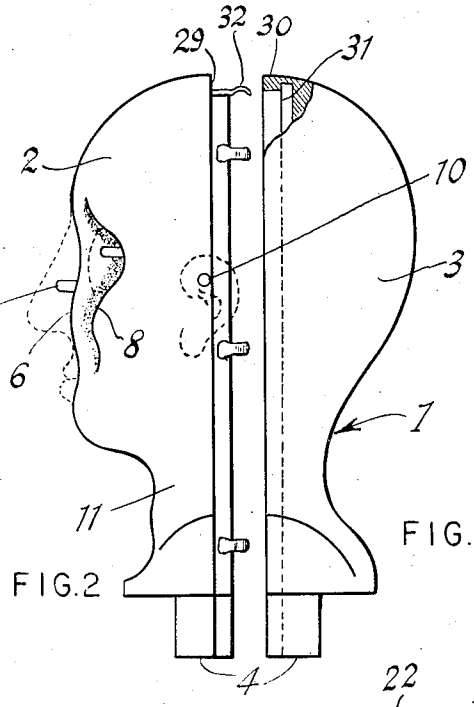


FIG. 2

FIG. 3

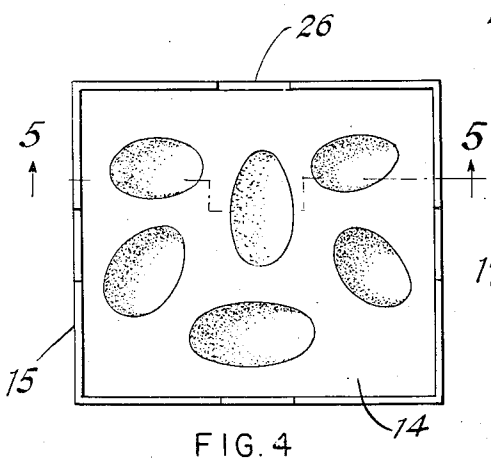


FIG. 4

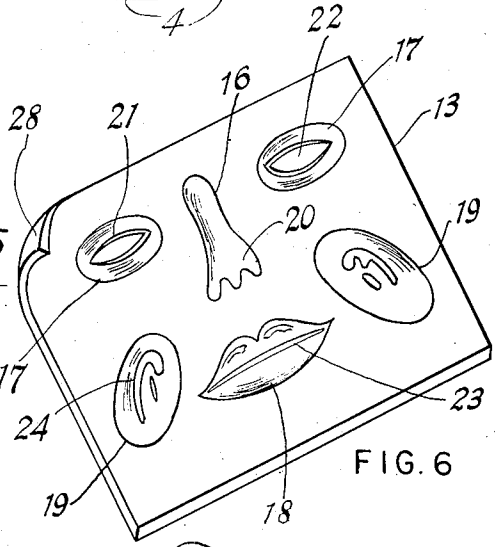


FIG. 6

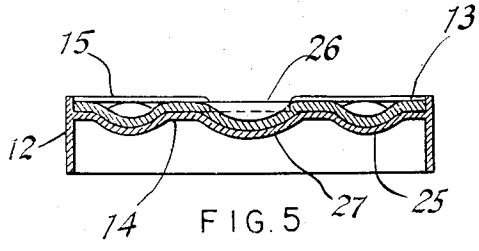


FIG. 5



FIG. 7

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2,831,286

Patented Apr. 22, 1958

2,831,286

DEVICE FOR MODELLING IN CLAY

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Application February 24, 1954, Serial No. 412,236

1 Claim. (Cl. 41—1)

My invention relates to improvements in modelling or sculpturing appliances especially adapted for obtaining various effects with artist's clay and the like soft plastic materials that can easily be worked with the hand.

An important object of this invention is to provide means for preforming pieces of clay into parts of an object to be produced, and then assembling said parts in their proper relations and working them further into a finished creation.

Another object is to provide apparatus for the purpose stated comprising a member in which the component parts of a selected object are first shaped one by one, and a second member to which said parts are transferred and caused to adhere in the production of the completed whole.

The nature and advantages of the invention are fully described hereinafter and the novel features are pointed out in the appended claim. The drawings illustrate a preferred embodiment of the improvement, but changes in minor respects may be adopted without omission or alteration of any of the essential characteristics.

On said drawings:

Figure 1 is a front view of a support upon which lumps of the clay or like plastic are mounted.

Figure 2 is a side view of the front part of said support.

Figure 3 is a side elevation of the rear part of said support.

Figure 4 is a top plan of a mold tray or box to be employed in giving pieces of clay their initial shape.

Figure 5 is a section on line 5—5 of Figure 4.

Figure 6 is a perspective view of a sheet or panel, having the mold cavities required, for use with the mold box; and

Figure 7 shows an example of the results that can be gained in the practice of my invention.

The numeral 1 indicates a support upon which pieces of modelling clay can be stuck to make up an object having the appearance desired. It comprises a front section 2 and a rear section 3, and a projection 4 at the bottom, in two halves, one carried by each section, so that the support can be mounted on a suitable pedestal or base. The front section 2 has a pair of cavities 5, one at each side, at the upper part and a flat surface 6 between and below the cavities 5. The surface 6 has a centrally located projecting stud 7 below the cavities 5, and this surface intersects the side surfaces of the section 2, which are rounded and convex, along curved lines 8 which bulge outward adjacent the cavities 5 and stud 7. In each of the cavities 5 is a stud 9, and in each side of the section 2 is a stud 10, the studs 7 and 10 being approximately in transverse alinement. The sections 2 and 3 are otherwise so shaped that when united they form a faceless head,

with rounded parts or surfaces along the lines 8 and between these lines and the studs 10 representing cheeks; and neck 11, half of which is included in each section, and each section carries part of the projection 4. The soft clay is put on the stud 7 and worked to resemble a nose and mouth; on the studs 9 in the cavities 5 to give the eyes and brows, and on the studs 10 at the sides to make the ears; as indicated in broken lines on Figures 2 and 3.

To prepare these various simulated features and other parts of the head, the mold box 12 is utilized with a mold plate or panel 13. The box or tray 12 has a raised bottom 14 surrounded by a raised rim 15. The mold sheet or plate is of flexible material such as sheet rubber and has in one face a mold cavity 16 for the nose, cavities 17 at each side of the cavity 16 for the brows and eyeballs; a cavity 18 for the mouth below the cavity 16; and cavities 19 for the ears at each side of the mouth cavity 18, and below the cavities 17. The cavity 16 has small knobs 20 at the larger end to cause the clay for the nose to seem hollow as if it were traversed by the nasal passages or nostrils. The cavities 17 have curved ridges 21 meeting at their ends, with hollows 22 between them to form the eyes and brows; the cavity 18 has a transverse central rib 23 to separate the lips; and the cavities 19 have projections 24 and depressions to impart to a piece of clay therein an outline and surface like the form and convolutions of the outer ear. The panel 13 is laid on the bottom 14 which has depressions 25 in which the bulging portions 27 on the opposite face of the panel 13 under the depressions or mold cavities above mentioned are seated. When the plate 13 is in the mold box, the cavities 16, 17, 18 and 19 are filled, and the panel is then removed and the pieces of clay in the cavities of the panel are taken out. The rim 15 of the mold box has notches 26 so that the edges of the panel can easily be grasped by the worker's fingers and lifted from the box 12.

The mold cavities in the panel 13 can easily be evacuated by pressing up the lower face below each cavity, and when the pieces of clay are expelled they are attached to the support 1, as indicated in dashed lines on Figure 1. Enough additional clay is put on to cover the cheeks, crown, chin and neck. By attaching more clay to the nose, lips, chin, cheeks, etc., the head and face can be given any desired look or appearance, like an ordinary human face, or distorted to be like a physiognomy for a caricature or cartoon. The flexibility of the sheet 13 is indicated by the curled corner 28 on Figure 5. A hat as shown in Figure 7 can be added if desired.

The appliances herein described are made up in the form of sets for sale as unitary equipment and packed all in one box or carton. For that reason the support 1 is in two sections 2 and 3, one of which has a peripheral shoulder 29 that fits into a recess of the other, with an edge 30 having an inside shoulder 31. The shoulder 29 has spring catches 32 with laterally curved ends so that when the sections 2 and 3 are assembled, the ends of the fingers will slip past the rim 30 and catch against the shoulder 31. Thus the two sections can be detachably secured together when the support is to be set up for use. The division of the head in this way enables the set to be put up in a shallower tray.

Having described my invention, what I believe to be new is:

A device for modelling with soft clay comprising a box

having a raised bottom, a peripheral rim supporting and projecting above said bottom, the box being hollow and open below said bottom, said rim having notches in its upper edge, the bottom having depressions in its upper face, a sheet of flexible material on said bottom, said sheet having open mold cavities with depressions and ridges in its upper surface to impart to pieces of clay pressed therein a likeness to different features of the human face, said sheet having bulges on its lower face to fit said depressions in said bottom, the notches facilitating the removal of the sheet from said box.

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