

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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(54) IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO A HOLDER FOR PHOTOGRAPHS OR THE LIKE

(71) We, DART INDUSTRIES INC. a corporation organised and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, United States of America, of Post Office Box 3157 Terminal Annex, Los Angeles, California, 90051, United States of America, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:-

The present invention relates to a holder for mounting photographs, other decorative materials, calendars or the like.

Conventional holders for photographs and the like comprise frames of a rectangular or square shape which are fabricated from various materials such as wood and plastics. Normally, a plastics or glass sheet is inserted in the frame in front of the picture to be mounted in the frame and a backing is attached behind the picture.

Some prior proposed frames are available which permit the flexing of the picture to create a 3-dimensional effect.

According to this invention there is provided a holder for photographs or the like comprising a structure having spaced end walls of a triangular-like configuration, each such end wall having an apex and a base, a first side wall affixed to and extending between the apices of the end walls, a second side wall affixed to the end walls adjacent the bases of the end walls, undercuts extending along the inner side of each of said first and second side walls, a third wall affixed to and extending between said end walls, and located between said first and second side walls and a flexible sheet mounted on the said structure and of a size to fit snugly between said end walls and the first and second side walls, opposite edges of the sheet being positioned in the respective said undercuts and said sheet being flexed inward in a concave configuration against said third wall, the arrangement being such that photographs or the like may be positioned between and held in

place by said sheet and said third wall.

The preferred embodiments of the present invention are highly decorative holders which permit the insertion and removal of pictures or decorative materials easily and rapidly, the pictures or decorative materials being flexed to a concave position to give a 3-dimensional effect.

In order that the invention may be more readily understood and so that further features thereof may be appreciated, the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a front perspective view of a holder in accordance with the present invention, with the holder positioned in a first viewing position;

Figure 2 is a front perspective view of the holder illustrated in figure 1 with the holder positioned in a second viewing position;

Figure 3 is an exploded perspective view of the holder illustrated in figure 1;

Figure 4 is a top plan view of the holder illustrated in figure 1 with parts cut away;

Figure 5 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 5-5 of figure 4;

Figure 6 is an enlarged view of circled portion 6 in figure 5;

Figure 7 is an enlarged view of circled portion 7 in figures 5;

Figure 8 is a cross-sectional view similar to figure 5 and showing the holder in assembled condition with a picture and a flexible plastics sheet in place;

Figure 9 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 9-9 of Figure 8;

Figure 10 is an exploded perspective view of another embodiment of the holder;

Figure 11 is a cross-sectional view similar to Figure 8 showing the holder of figure 10 in assembled condition with a picture and flexible plastics sheets in place; and

Figure 12 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 12-12 of figure 11.

A preferred embodiment of a holder 5 in accordance with the invention is shown in a first display position in figure 1 and in a second display position in figure 2. The holder stands higher when in the display position shown in figure 1 than when in the display position shown in figure 2.

The holder includes a pair of parallel end walls 6 and 7. The end walls are identical in configuration and have a shape similar to that of a right angle triangle. The outer edge 8 of each end wall 6 and 7 is the apex of the triangle and is somewhat truncated. Each end wall has a longer side 9 and a shorter side 10. The upper edge of each end wall is curved (concave) at 11 on approximately a $4\frac{1}{2}$ " radius. Each end wall has a longer straight edge 9 which is approximately 5" long and a shorter straight edge 10 which is approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ " long. The length of the holder is approximately 12". The inclusion of these dimensions is not intended to limit this invention or the size of the holder, but rather to show the relative relationship of the dimensions of the holder.

A front wall 11 extends between and is affixed to the truncated outer edge 8 of each of the two end walls 6 and 7. This front wall is relatively short in height and is sloped or canted inwardly as shown in Figure 7.

The upper end of the holder has a wall 12 extending between and affixed to each of the two end walls 6 and 7. The wall 12 has the configuration shown in Figure 6. A back wall 13 extends downwardly from the top wall 12 in the configuration shown in Figure 5 and the cut out portion shown in Figure 4. A portion of the top wall 12 which connects with the back wall 13 extends substantially parallel to the bottom edge 9 of the holder, this portion being designed for purposes to be discussed hereinafter. The front wall 11 provides an undercut area 14 at the rear of the wall due to the manner in which the wall 11 is slanted. A central wall 15 extends rearwardly from the wall 11 in the manner shown in Figure 5 and has an upwardly projecting portion 16. The wall 15 extends between and is affixed to the end walls 6 and 7.

The holder 5 is also provided with a flexible plastics sheet 17 which may be fabricated from any flexible clear plastics material such as acrylic, polystyrene or the like. This flexible sheet 17 is provided with clear windows 19 which are framed by a darkened area 18 of the sheet. Thus the darkened area 18 forms a mask for a photograph which is inserted in the holder in the manner to be described hereinafter. The clear areas 19 may be of any configuration such as rectangular, square, oval and may be of any number. Alternatively, the plastics sheet 17 may be clear without any darkened masking areas 18 if one or more photographs which will fill the entire area behind the plastics sheet 17 are to be displayed.

Referring now to Figures 8 and 9, a photo-

graph 20 is shown in position behind the plastics sheet 17 which has masking areas 18. The sheet 17 is flexed inwardly after insertion of its upper edge underneath the edge 13 of wall 12, and insertion of its lower edge into the undercut 14 of wall 11. The flexible sheet 17 is of sufficient flexibility easily to snap to the concave shape shown in Figure 8 and substantially to conform with the concave edges of the end walls 6 and 7. However, the flexible sheet 17 has sufficient rigidity to hold the photograph 20 in position against the wall 15.

In the event that a photograph or any other decorative material is positioned incorrectly behind the flexible sheet 17, it may be repositioned by the user inserting his fingers between the upper edge of wall 16 and wall 12 and manually adjusting the photograph or other decorative material.

An alternative embodiment of a holder in accordance with the invention is shown in Figures 10, 11 and 12. This holder is in most respects similar to the holder shown in Figures 1 to 9 but in this embodiment, the holder is provided with a second flexible plastics sheet which, as shown in figures 11 and 12 is positioned behind photograph 20 so that the photographs are sandwiched between the two flexible sheets. To mount the photographs in the holder both sheets are simultaneously flexed inwardly to the concave position shown in Figure 11. The second sheet provides a sturdy backing for the photographs positioned in the holder.

Decorative materials, such as dried flowers for example, could be placed in an embodiment of the holder which was provided with a second plastics sheet, the decorative materials being positioned between the two sheets so that the decorative materials would thereby be held in position.

It will be appreciated that the holder can be used in either of the two positions shown in Figures 1 and 2, but, for the sake of simplicity, in the foregoing description all references to upper and lower edges refer to the holder when in the position shown in perspective in Figures 2, 3 and 10.

The sheet 17 may be repeatedly removed by merely flexing it outwardly from its concave position by inserting the fingers into the opening between wall 16 and wall 12, thus permitting a rapid and easy change in the photographs or decorative material which is positioned in the holder.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. A holder for photographs or the like comprising a structure having spaced end walls of a triangular-like configuration, each such end wall having an apex and a base, a first side wall affixed to and extending between the apices of the end walls, a second side wall affixed to the end walls adjacent the bases of the end walls, undercuts extending along the inner side of each of said first and second side walls, a third



A preferred embodiment of a holder 5 in accordance with the invention is shown in a first display position in figure 1 and in a second display position in figure 2. The holder stands higher when in the display position shown in figure 1 than when in the display position shown in figure 2.

The holder includes a pair of parallel end walls 6 and 7. The end walls are identical in configuration and have a shape similar to that of a right angle triangle. The outer edge 8 of each end wall 6 and 7 is the apex of the triangle and is somewhat truncated. Each end wall has a longer side 9 and a shorter side 10. The upper edge of each end wall is curved (concave) at 11' on approximately a $4\frac{1}{2}$ " radius. Each end wall has a longer straight edge 9 which is approximately 5" long and a shorter straight edge 10 which is approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ " long. The length of the holder is approximately 12". The inclusion of these dimensions is not intended to limit this invention or the size of the holder, but rather to show the relative relationship of the dimensions of the holder.

A front wall 11 extends between and is affixed to the truncated outer edge 8 of each of the two end walls 6 and 7. This front wall is relatively short in height and is sloped or canted inwardly as shown in Figure 7.

The upper end of the holder has a wall 12 extending between and affixed to each of the two end walls 6 and 7. The wall 12 has the configuration shown in Figure 6. A back wall 13 extends downwardly from the top wall 12 in the configuration shown in Figure 5 and the cut out portion shown in Figure 4. A portion of the top wall 12 which connects with the back wall 13 extends substantially parallel to the bottom edge 9 of the holder, this portion being designed for purposes to be discussed hereinafter. The front wall 11 provides an undercut area 14 at the rear of the wall due to the manner in which the wall 11 is slanted. A central wall 15 extends rearwardly from the wall 11 in the manner shown in Figure 5 and has an upwardly projecting portion 16. The wall 15 extends between and is affixed to the end walls 6 and 7.

The holder 5 is also provided with a flexible plastics sheet 17 which may be fabricated from any flexible clear plastics material such as acrylic, polystyrene or the like. This flexible sheet 17 is provided with clear windows 19 which are framed by a darkened area 18 of the sheet. Thus the darkened area 18 forms a mask for a photograph which is inserted in the holder in the manner to be described hereinafter. The clear areas 19 may be of any configuration such as rectangular, square, oval and may be of any number. Alternatively, the plastics sheet 17 may be clear without any darkened masking areas 18 if one or more photographs which will fill the entire area behind the plastics sheet 17 are to be displayed.

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graph 20 is shown in position behind the plastics sheet 17 which has masking areas 18. The sheet 17 is flexed inwardly after insertion of its upper edge underneath the edge 13' of wall 12, and insertion of its lower edge into the undercut 14 of wall 11. The flexible sheet 17 is of sufficient flexibility easily to snap to the concave shape shown in Figure 8 and substantially to conform with the concave edges of the end walls 6 and 7. However, the flexible sheet 17 has sufficient rigidity to hold the photograph 20 in position against the wall 15.

In the event that a photograph or any other decorative material is positioned incorrectly behind the flexible sheet 17, it may be repositioned by the user inserting his fingers between the upper edge of wall 16 and wall 12 and manually adjusting the photograph or other decorative material.

An alternative embodiment of a holder in accordance with the invention is shown in Figures 10, 11 and 12. This holder is in most respects similar to the holder shown in Figures 1 to 9 but in this embodiment, the holder is provided with a second flexible plastics sheet which, as shown in figures 11 and 12 is positioned behind photographs 20 so that the photographs are sandwiched between the two flexible sheets. To mount the photographs in the holder both sheets are simultaneously flexed inwardly to the concave position shown in Figure 11. The second sheet provides a sturdy backing for the photographs positioned in the holder.

Decorative materials, such as dried flowers for example, could be placed in an embodiment of the holder which was provided with a second plastics sheet, the decorative materials being positioned between the two sheets so that the decorative materials would thereby be held in position.

It will be appreciated that the holder can be used in either of the two positions shown in Figures 1 and 2, but, for the sake of simplicity, in the foregoing description all references to upper and lower edges refer to the holder when in the position shown in perspective in Figures 2, 3 and 10.

The sheet 17 may be repeatedly removed by merely flexing it outwardly from its concave position by inserting the fingers into the opening between wall 16 and wall 12, thus permitting a rapid and easy change in the photographs or decorative material which is positioned in the holder.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. A holder for photographs or the like comprising a structure having spaced end walls of a triangular-like configuration, each such end wall having an apex and a base, a first side wall affixed to and extending between the apices of the end walls, a second side wall affixed to the end walls adjacent the bases of the end walls, undercuts extending along the inner side of each of said first and second side walls, a third



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5 wall affixed to and extending between said end walls, and located between said first and second side walls, and a flexible sheet mounted on the said structure and of a size to fit snugly between said end walls and the first and second side walls, opposite edges of the sheet being positioned in the respective said undercuts, and said sheet being flexed inward in a concave configuration against said third wall, the arrangement being such that photographs or the like may be positioned between and held in place by said sheet and said third wall.

10 2. A holder according to claim 1 wherein each end wall of the holder has a long edge, a short edge and a hypotenuse, and the holder may be placed in either of two positions; first standing on said long edges or, second standing on said short edges.

15 3. A holder according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the end walls are of right angle triangular-like configuration and the top edge of each end wall is concave.

20 4. A holder according to claim 3 wherein said sheet is flexed inward against the third wall in a concave configuration approximating the concavity of the top edge of each end wall.

25 5. A holder according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein an opening is provided between said first and third walls, whereby access is provided for manual manipulation of said sheet or any photographs or the like positioned between said sheet and said

third wall.

6. A holder according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein a second flexible sheet is mounted on said structure behind said flexible sheet, the arrangement being such that photographs or the like may be positioned between and held in place by said sheet and said second sheet.

7. A holder according to any one of the preceding claims wherein at least part of said sheet is transparent or translucent.

8. A holder substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated in Figures 1 to 9 of the accompanying drawings.

9. A holder substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated in Figures 10, 11 and 12 of the accompanying drawings.

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