

July 8, 1952

C. C. SHINN

2,602,252

PORTABLE EXHIBITING DEVICE

Filed March 15, 1950

3 Sheets-Sheet 1

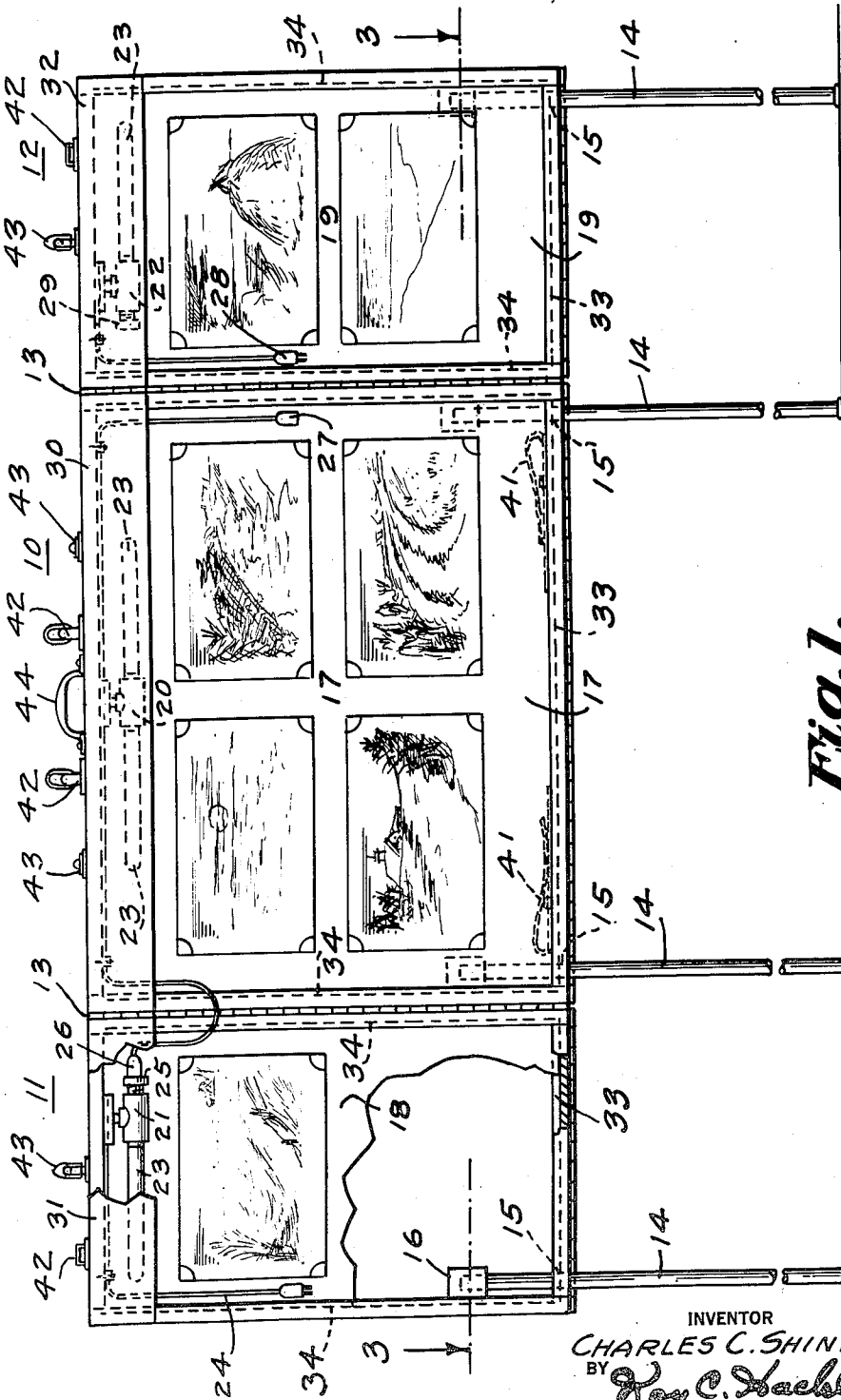


Fig. 1.

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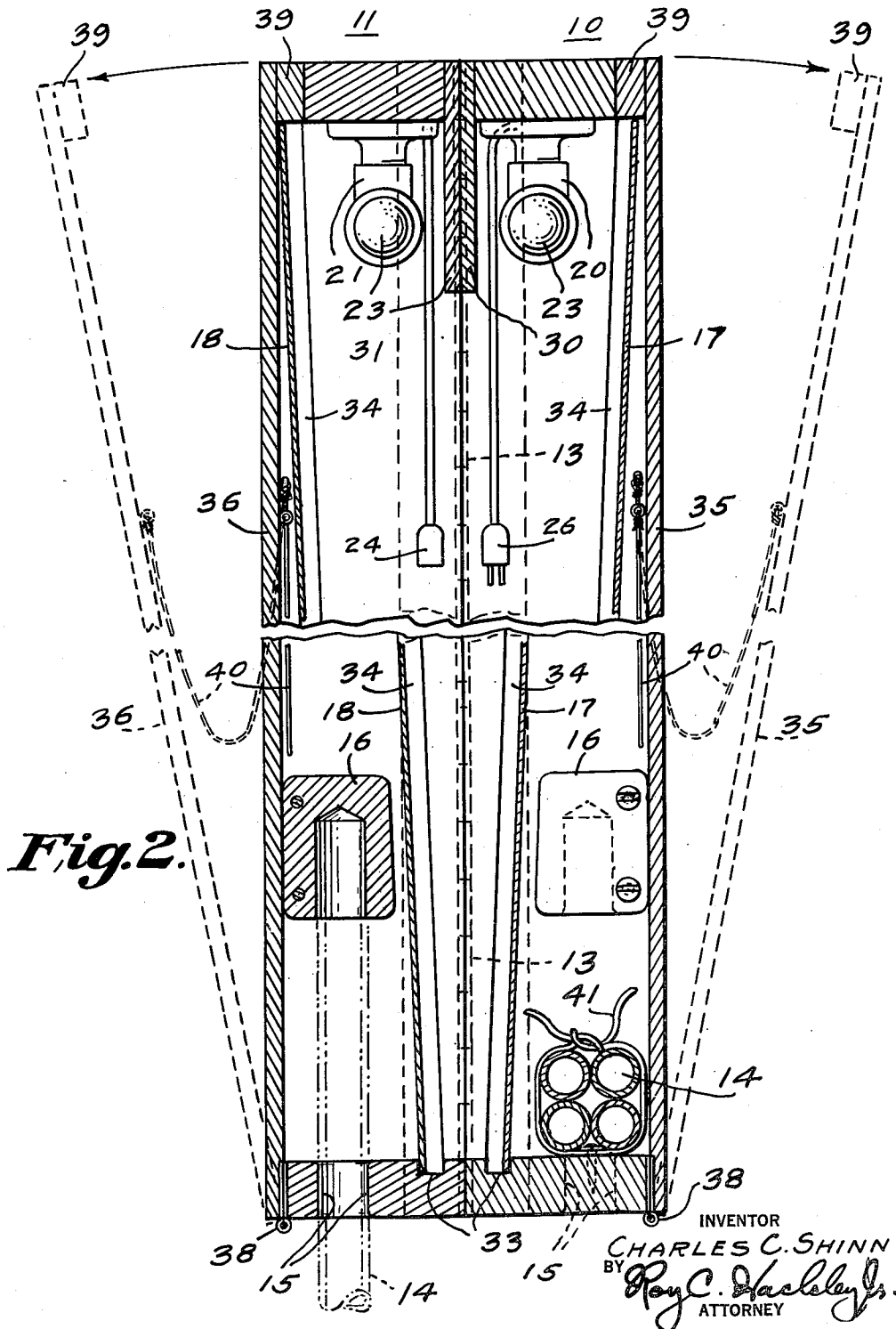
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3 Sheets-Sheet 3

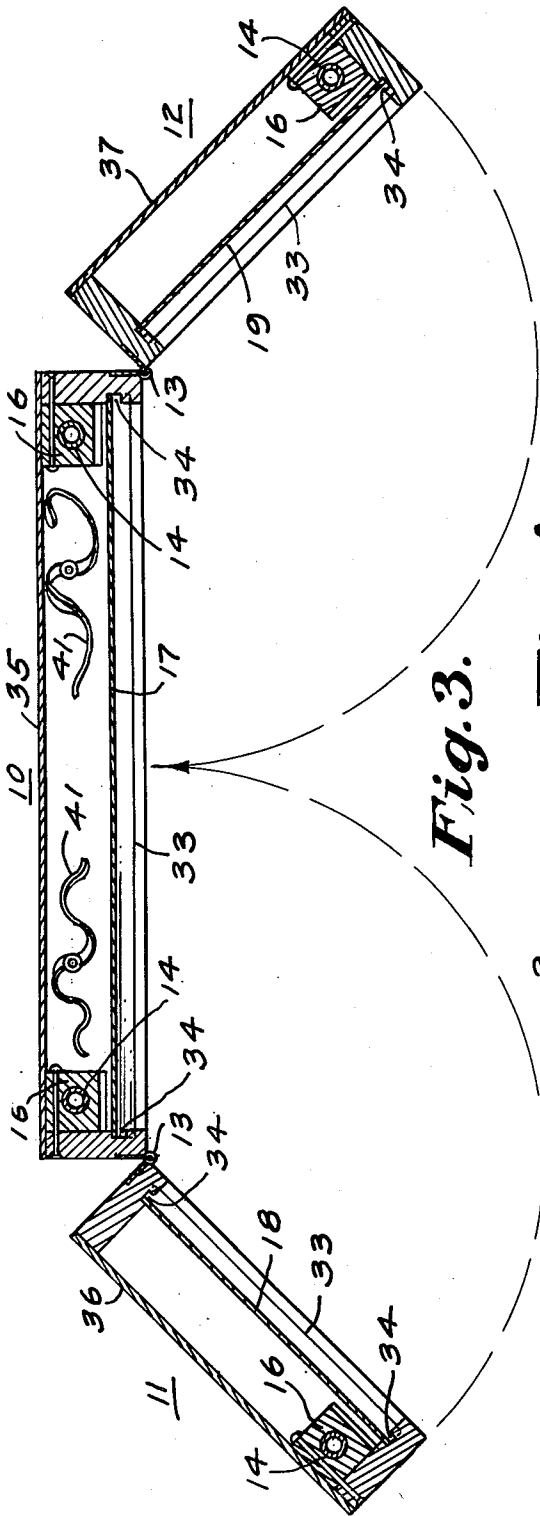


Fig. 3.

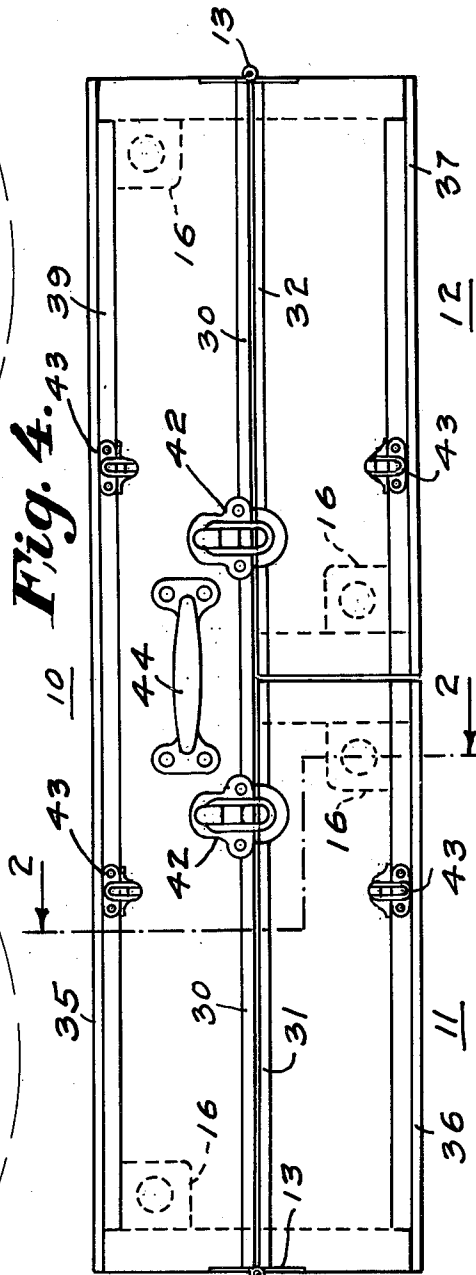


Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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PORTABLE EXHIBITING DEVICE

Charles C. Shinn, Greenbelt, Md., assignor to the
United States of America as represented by the
Administrator, Federal Security Agency

Application March 15, 1950, Serial No. 149,845

2 Claims. (Cl. 40—125)

(Granted under the act of March 3, 1883, as
amended April 30, 1928; 370 O. G. 757)

1

The invention described herein may be manufactured and used by or for the Government of the United States for governmental purposes without the payment to me of any royalty thereon in accordance with the provisions of the act of April 30, 1928 (ch. 460, 45 Stat. L. 467).

My invention relates to a folding portable exhibiting device designed to be inherently compact and light in weight including self-contained means for illuminating changeable exhibit panels, and particularly to one which, when folded, forms its own case and may be transported as a piece of hand luggage or shipped eliminates the use of relatively heavy and cumbersome shipping crates, easels and other exhibit supports.

This device is particularly designed for economical transportation by automobile thereby making relatively certain that an exhibit will accompany a motoring lecturer, teacher, professional man, salesman, or person engaged in an organizing or soliciting campaign, for illustrating lectures at a series of meetings in different places. Thereby, the inconvenience, inefficiency, and delay of shipping by express or other common carrier and of picking up and disbursing heavy crates at each stop is eliminated. It is also designed so that the outside surfaces, when folded, are strong enough to withstand the normal damage of shipping; but when open for exhibit, these scarred outside surfaces will be hidden from view and the protected inside surfaces become the front of the exhibit.

In the accompanying drawings which illustrate a preferred form of my invention:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of my device, with two lateral frames in the plane of a central plane.

Figure 2 is a vertical section, on a larger scale, on the line 2—2 of Figure 4.

Figure 3 is a horizontal section, on the plane of section 3—3 of Fig. 1, of my device, the side frames being swung forwardly from the position of Figure 1 to make this device self supporting.

Figure 4 is a plan view of my closed device.

10 indicates a main frame and 11, 12 are lateral frames secured to the main frame 10 by identical piano-type hinges 13. The lateral frames 11, 12 are substantially half the width of the frame 10. These frames are supported by a plurality of detachable legs 14 which are inserted through holes 15 in the frames 10, 11 and 12 into sockets 16 which are laterally attached within the frames. These sockets are pre-

2

cisely located to give maximum support and at the same time, allow for diagonal insertion of the exhibit panels 17, 18, 19 and to give maximum storage area behind said panels.

A double-end showcase electric socket 20, 21 or 22 is attached within each of the frames 10, 11, 12, respectively. Current is supplied to showcase type tubes 23 in the sockets 20, 21, 22 through an extension cord (not shown) which supplies current through a detachable cord 24, a screw plug connector 25, a second detachable cord 26 and third and fourth detachable cords 27 and 28.

The wiring is arranged so that only one power source inlet is necessary. A plug outlet 29 is provided at the end of the continuous lighting circuit to permit operation of a slide projection machine, an electrical laboratory device, any mechanical visual aid device or other apparatus with the exhibit. Glare shields 30, 31, 32 cut off direct rays of light from the tubes 23 into the eyes of an observer.

Three reflecting light troughs are formed by the frames 10, 11, 12 and the glare shields 30, 31, 32 and may be lined with aluminum foil or other suitable lining provided with a suitable reflecting surface (not shown) for reflecting light upon the exhibit panels.

Each of the frames 10, 11, and 12 is provided with a lower internal channel 33 and slightly inclined side channels 34 (see Figures 1, 2) for holding exhibit panels. The center frame 10 holds a 30" x 40" exhibit panel 17, the size of a standard sheet of artists' illustration board. The lateral frames 11, 12 hold exhibit panels 18, 19, approximately one-half the width of the center panel, these three panels are of standard height. The insertion of the exhibit panels divides each frame 10, 11, 12 diagonally, and creates a storage space behind each exhibit panel and an unobstructed exhibit surface on the front of each panel. The depth of the channels 33 and 34 makes possible the sliding of two extra exhibit panels into each frame for economic shipment and easy interchange of exhibits. The whole design is based on the standard 30" x 40" dimension to facilitate the use of the exhibiting device by amateur and inexperienced persons who find it necessary to exhibit, but cannot procure the services of professional exhibit personnel for construction of an exhibit support and shipping case and for cutting and fitting exhibit panels.

Backflaps 35, 36, 37 are secured to the frame

at the bottom by hinges 38 and are provided with reinforcing strips 39 and swing limiting cords 40.

When folded for carrying, the detachable legs 14 are stored within the frame 10 and may be secured by suitable straps 41. Similar spaces are provided within frames 11 and 12 for carrying extra lighting tubes, an extension cord, literature and other items to be used with the exhibit. When demounted and folded for carrying (see Figure 4) the lateral frames 11 and 12 are detachably fastened to the main frame 10 by suitcase snap fasteners 42 while the backflaps 30 are similarly secured by similar fasteners 43.

The folded device may be carried by a suitable handle 44, a preferred position of which is at the top of the side of the center frame or in back of the top of center panel where it will be automatically hidden when the exhibit device is open. A canvas cover with commercial zipper closure and suitable canvas carrying handles may be used instead of handles attached on the exhibitor itself and for added protection.

The exhibit device may be made of light wood with metal hardware or all aluminum or of plastics or the like. In use, the side frames would normally be unfolded to make an angle with the main frame. Standing in this manner it would not be necessary to use a wall, a booth, or any other supporting means except the supports provided in the exhibit device.

It should be understood that the present disclosure is for the purpose of illustration only, and that the invention includes all modifications and equivalents which fall within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. A portable changeable exhibitor including a central exhibit frame and two lateral exhibit frames hinged to opposite sides of said central

frame and arranged to support the exhibitor when set obliquely to the central frame and to fold against said central frame, each of said frames being provided with internally open inclined channels for interchangeably supporting standardized exhibit panels, a back flap on each frame providing a closure for temporary storage space in the rear of said exhibit panel channels and a plurality of detachable supporting legs adapted for transportation in said storage space.

2. A portable changeable exhibitor including a central exhibit frame and two lateral exhibit frames hinged to opposite sides of said central frame and arranged to support the exhibitor when set obliquely to the central frame and to fold against opposite sides of said central frame, each of said frames being provided with internally open side channels inclined outwardly and forwardly from a lower internal supporting channel whereby standardized exhibit panels are supported in a position for enhancing the effect of artificial illumination, a back flap closure on each frame providing temporary storage space and a protection during shipment and storage of exhibit panels and detachable supporting legs.

CHARLES C. SHINN.

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The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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