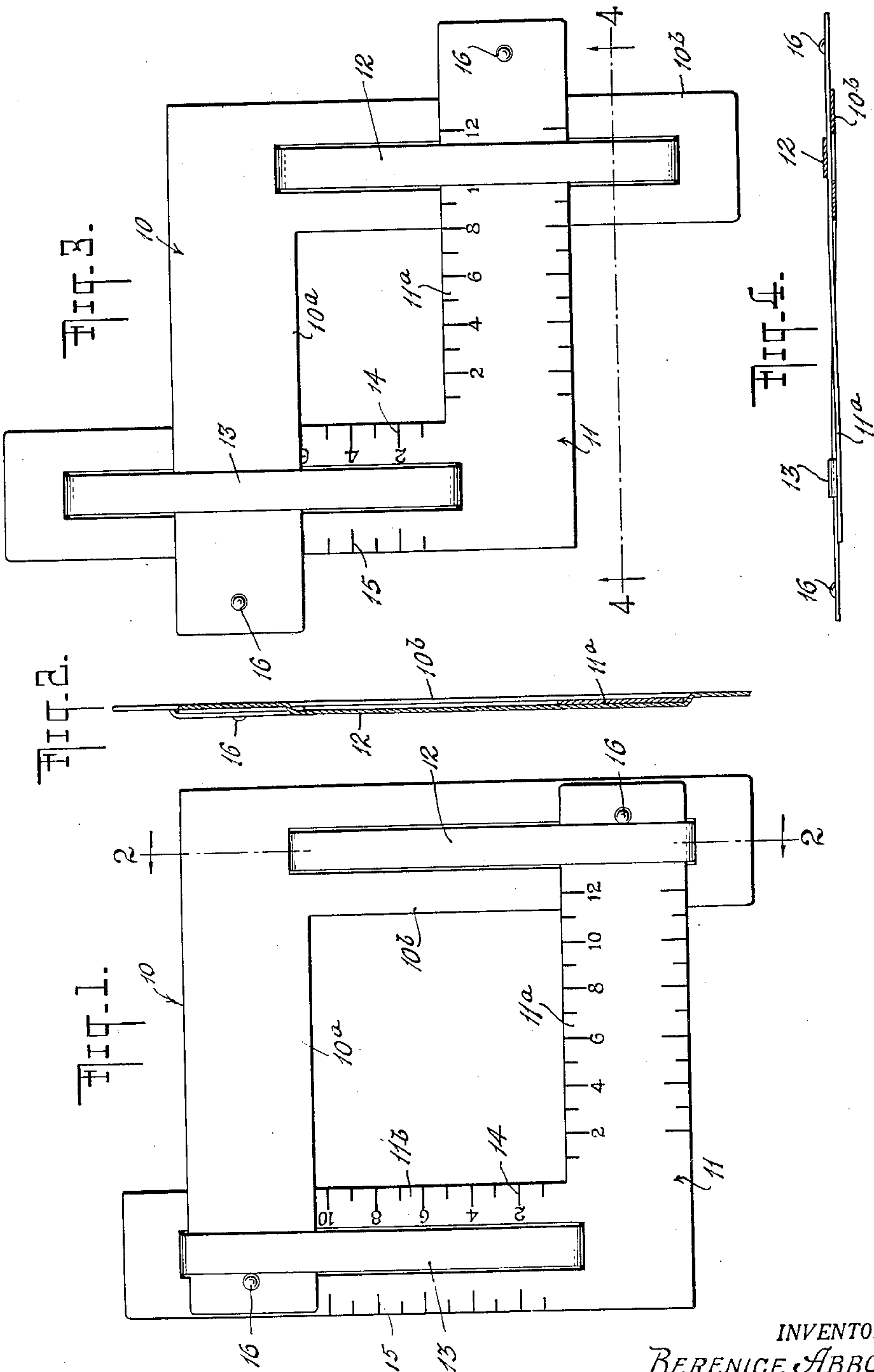


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COMPOSITION GUIDE
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COMPOSITION GUIDE

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The present invention relates to composition guides for use by photographers, both amateur and professional, for aiding in pre-determining the field to be encompassed by the picture.

It is the general object of the present invention to provide a simple and inexpensive device, with which a photographer may obtain an idea of the appearance of a selected field or area to be photographed and to select a preferred composition for the picture prior to the taking thereof.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a composition guide of the type indicated which is readily adjustable both to make it useful for films of different sizes and also to insure that a desired field falls within the area covered by the picture.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a composition guide formed of two identical elements so that only a single die will be necessary for stamping the parts out of sheet material such as sheet metal, fiber board, plastic or the like.

A preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing wherein Fig. 1 is a top plan view of a device constructed in accordance with the invention, the parts being shown in the extreme position wherein they expose the largest opening;

Fig. 2 is a section taken along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 1 but showing the parts in different position to expose a smaller opening of different shape than that of Fig. 1; and

Fig. 4 is a section taken along the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Referring to the drawing, my improved composition guide is composed of two right-angular members 10 and 11 which are structurally identical with each other. As a result, they can both be stamped from sheet material with the same die. The legs of the right-angle members are designated as 10a, 10b, and 11a, 11b, respectively. Each of the legs 10b and 11b has struck therefrom, preferably along its median line, the strap 12 or 13 respectively, the strap being of a length considerably larger than the width of the legs 10a or 11a, for a purpose to be explained hereinafter.

It will be seen from Figs. 1 and 3 that corresponding legs of the members 10 and 11 can be slid under the straps of the other member to form a kind of frame through which an area to be photographed can be viewed. By placing the guide close to one eye, the photographer can scan the region to be photographed and can pre-de-

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termine which "framed" area will give the most desirable picture, and can insure that a desired field or object will fall within the area of the picture. The members 10 and 11 can be shifted relative to each other so as to frame desired areas of different shapes, and to insure that the exposed opening will always be rectangular in shape, suitable graduations 14 can be provided on one or both of the members 10, 11. These graduations are preferably arranged along the inner edges of the members; and if desired, they can also be arranged along the outer edges of one or both members as shown at 15, in order to insure that the leg of one member is in right-angular relationship to the adjacent leg of the other member.

To prevent separation of the two members after they have been assembled the leg of each member passing under the strap of the other member is provided with a stop 16, preferably in the form of a knob or bead struck from the body of such member and located near to the free end of such leg. The distance between the inside surface of the strap and the surface of the leg from which it is struck is no greater than, and is preferably less than, the thickness of the sheet material of which the members are made, so that the two members are frictionally held together by a spring action. It will be understood that the straps can be lifted sufficiently to enable the stops 16 to clear them for assembling or disassembling the parts.

From the foregoing it will be seen that I have provided a composition guide of great versatility and of compact and light construction; and further that the same can be manufactured at low cost and can be conveniently carried in the pocket.

While I have shown the right-angle members as being frictionally held to each other by means of strap elements struck from the body thereof, it will be understood that such strap elements or their equivalents need not be integral with the body of said members, but may be separate parts secured to the right-angle members in any suitable way. It will be obvious that the device can be manufactured from sheet material of any suitable kind, such as metals like steel, aluminum, etc., or from fiber board, plastic resinous materials of various kinds, etc.

I claim:

1. A composition guide composed solely of two substantially identical members of L-shape, each of said members having a strap element along one leg thereof struck from the body of such member and at slightly raised relation thereto,

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the other leg of each member being capable of being slid underneath the strap of the other member to form a rectangular opening therebetween, the height of the space by which each strap is raised from the surface of the leg from which it is struck being no greater than the thickness of said members so that the members are frictionally held in adjusted position to form a self-locking structure, the length of the strap being considerably greater than the width of the associated leg and extending from approximately the apex of the angle to nearly the end of the leg, there being markings on at least one of the members to facilitate adjustment of the members to a right-angular relation.

2. A composition guide comprising two identical substantially flat members of L-shape, the legs of which are at right angles to each other, each of said members having a relatively narrow strap element along one leg thereof, struck from the body of such member and in slightly raised relation thereto, said strap element extending from approximately the apex of the angle to nearly the end of the leg, the other leg of each member being capable of being slid underneath the strap of the other member, to be frictionally

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held thereby to form a self-locking structure having a rectangular opening framed by said members, said members being shiftable relative to each other against the frictional resistance of the straps for varying the size of the opening.

3. A composition guide as set forth in claim 2, including stop means in the form of raised knobs at the end of each of the legs of said members passing beneath the strap of the other member.

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