Sept. 2, 1958 C. ORTIS ET AL 2,850,294

PICTURE ALBUM

Filed March 6, 1953 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1

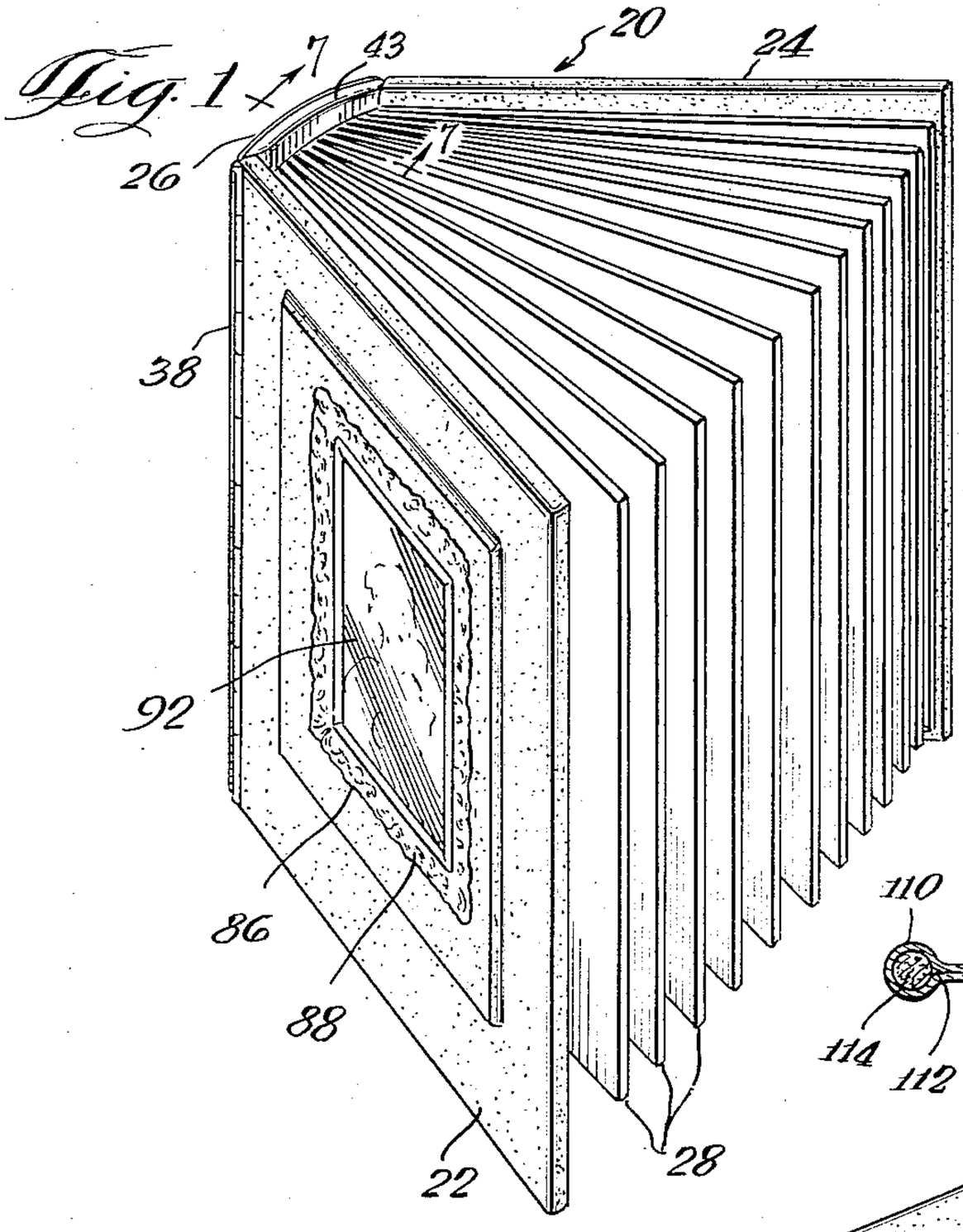
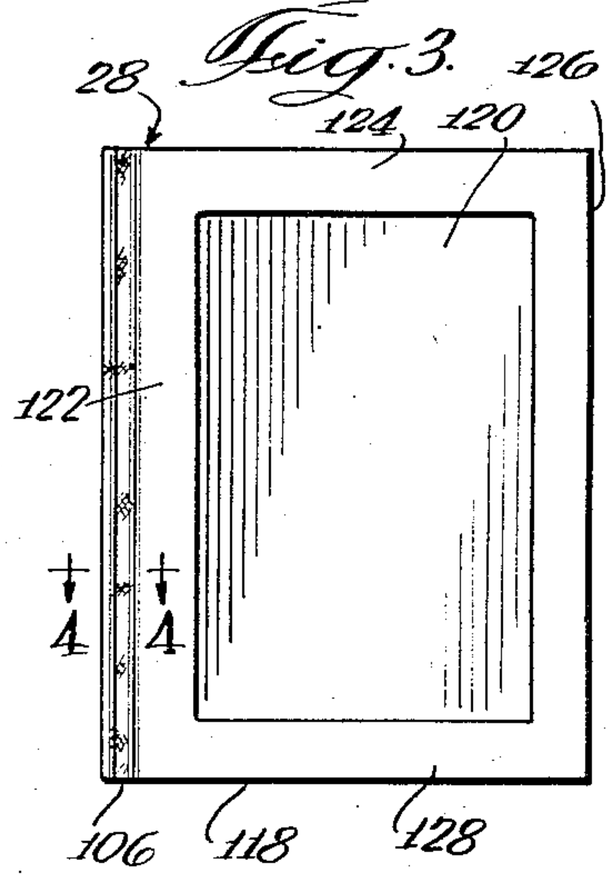



Fig. 3.



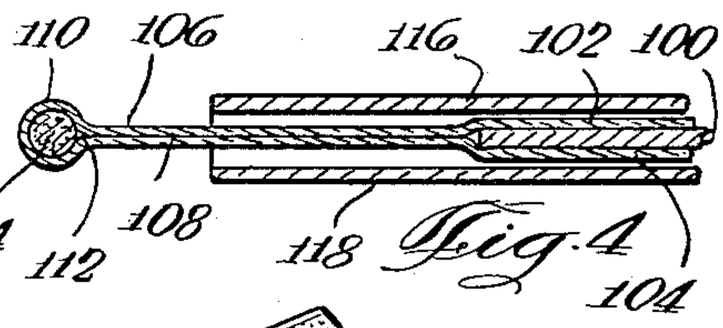




Fig. 4

Fig. 2

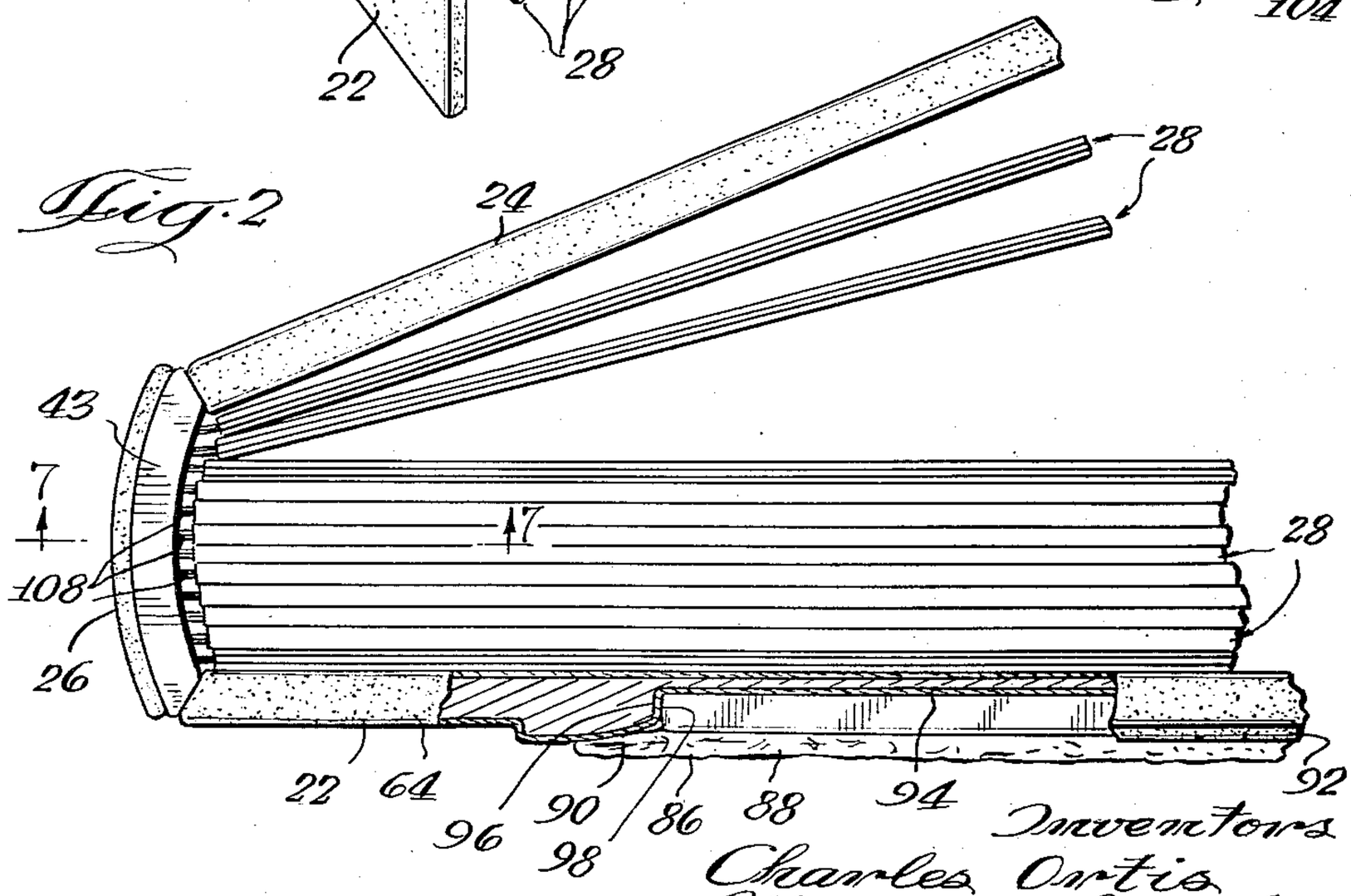



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Fig. 5.

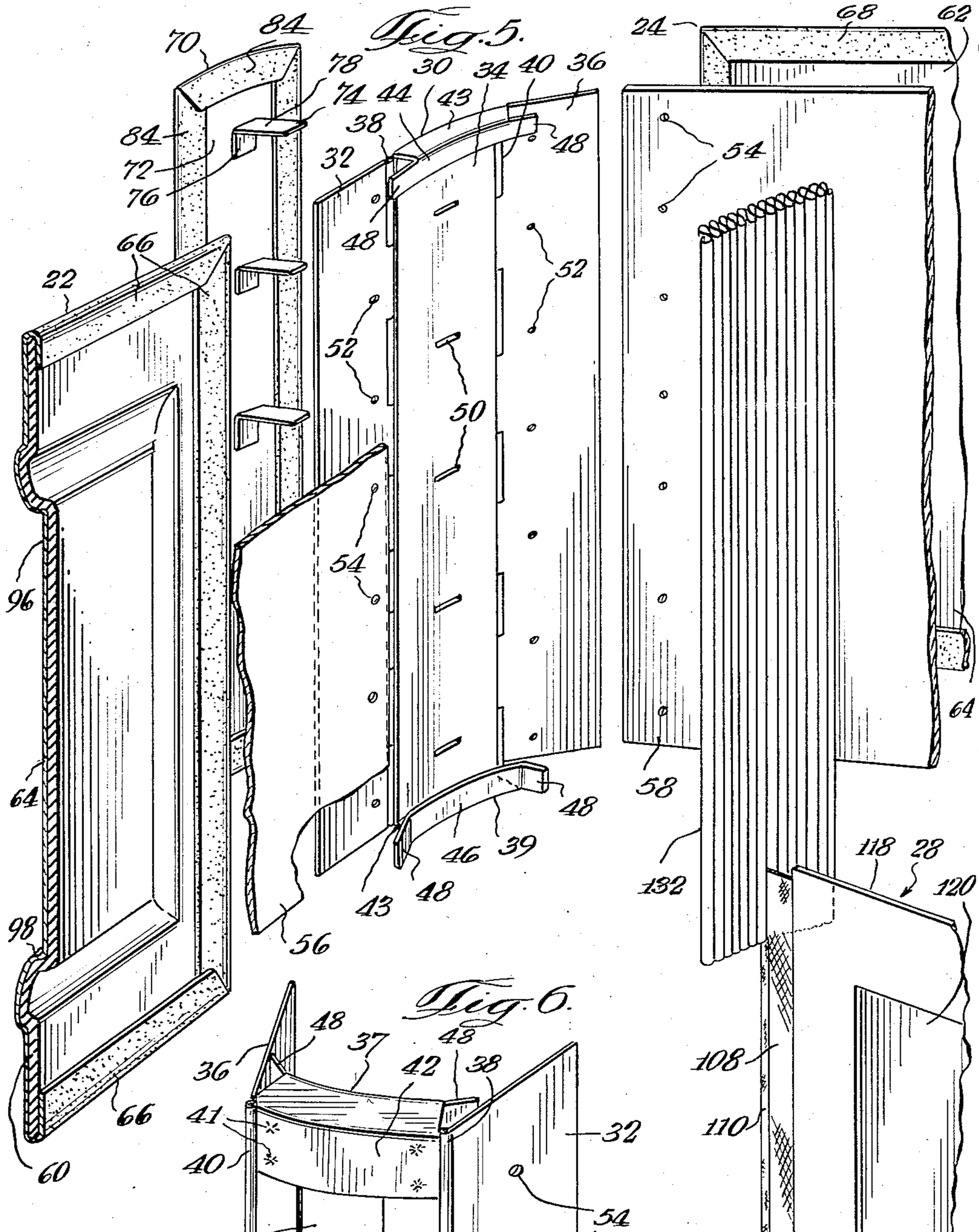


Fig. 6.




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Fig. 7.

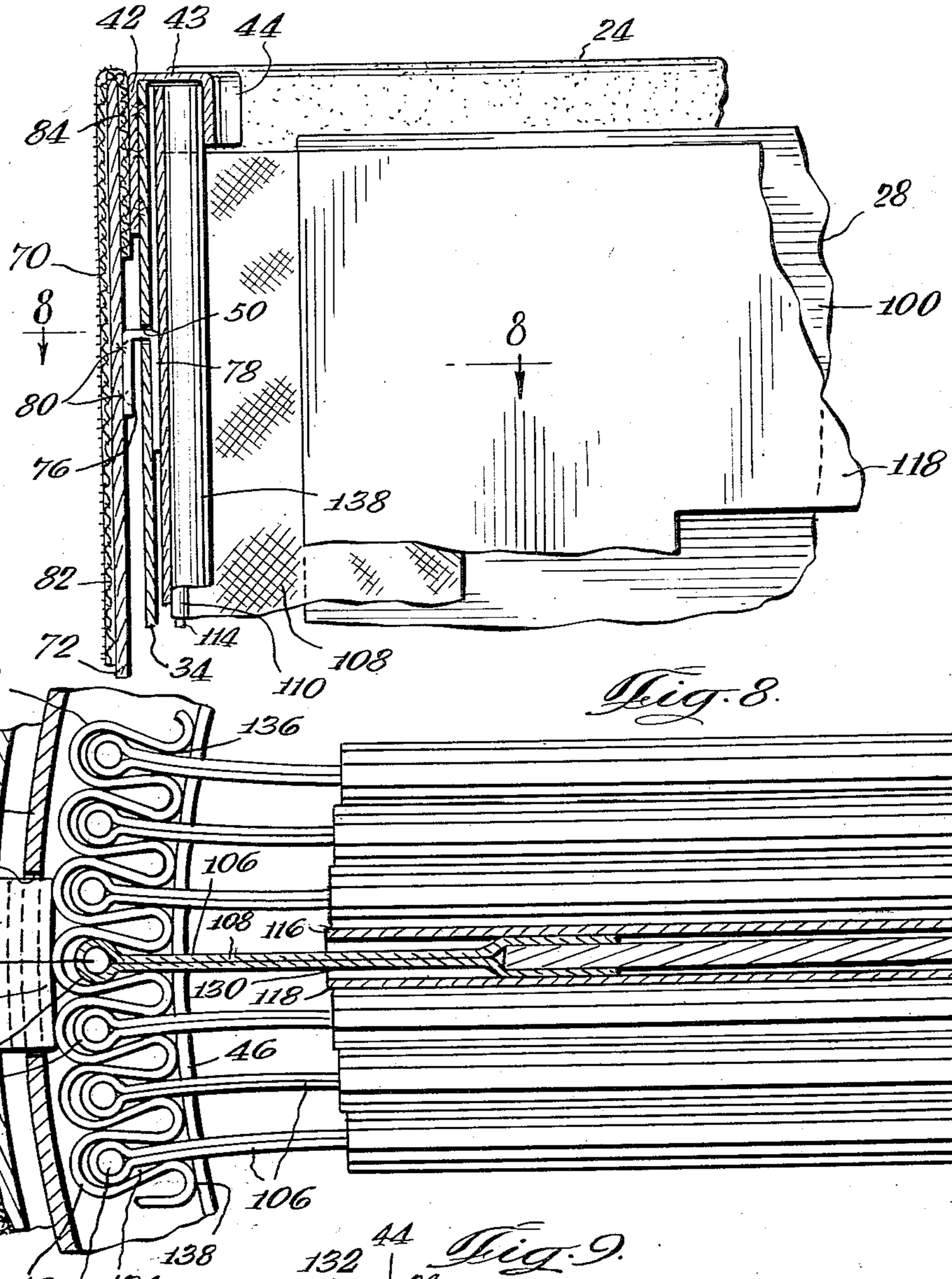
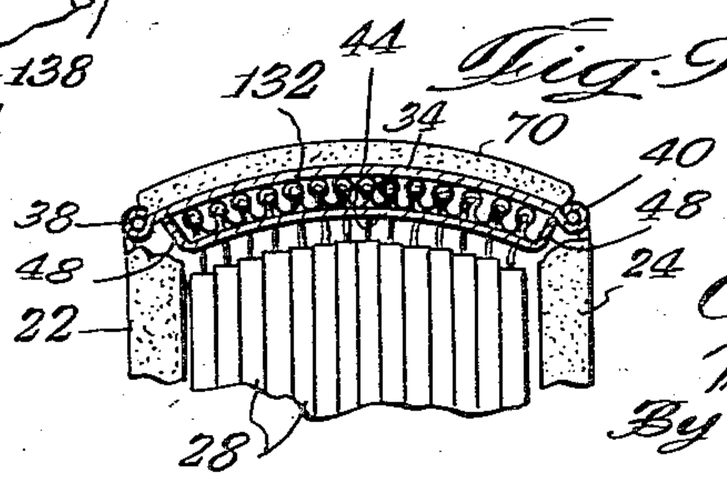



Fig. 8.




Fig. 9.

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2,850,294

# PICTURE ALBUM

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3 Claims. (Cl. 281—31)

This invention relates to picture and photograph albums and more particularly to improvements in storage pages and means for removably binding the same within the album.

Heretofore picture and photograph albums have consisted of two general types. One type comprised the conventional permanent or bound volume affording a fixed number of pages upon which photographs could be mounted; and the other was the loose-leaf type in which the number of pages could be varied by means of binding posts, rings or similar mechanical devices.

Of the two types the latter was generally considered the more desirable, but the disadvantages were numerous and obvious. The inconvenience attendant upon the dismantling of the album to insert or remove individual pages in the binding post type; and the tendency of ring-bound pages to tear and the ring holes to fray, etc; has to a large extent discouraged more general acceptance of photograph albums.

Recognizing the disadvantages of albums in general and the need for improved albums, attempts to remedy the situation have been made in recent years. However, even these improved albums failed to overcome the most undesirable of the disadvantages mentioned hereinabove; namely the necessity for at least partially dismantling the album in order to insert or remove a picture storage sheet.

It is therefore a primary object of this invention to provide a picture and photograph album which will overcome all of the disadvantages set forth hereinabove.

Another object is to afford an album in which one or more of the pages may be either removed or inserted without necessitating the dismantling of the covers.

A further object is to provide a novel storage-page retaining-member which securely and readily binds the edges of the pages within the album, but from which the pages may be as readily removed.

Yet another object is to afford an album in which the picture-storage-pages are provided with flexible portions so positioned that each page may bend around consecutively longer radii in the same manner as the pages of an ordinary book. Consequently each page complements the bend of the adjacent pages without crowding and in the most natural sequence, regardless of the number of pages and the point at which the album may be opened.

Yet a further object is to provide an album with removable picture-storage-pages in which the mechanical elements are unexposed, thereby presenting a most attractive picture storage and displaying means.

Still another object is to afford an album in which a removable picture frame is associated with the front cover; whereby pictures or photographs displayed therein may be utilized as a means for identifying the general subject matter of the album contents.

Still a further object is to provide a picture album which when displayed on a supporting easel, the width



of which need not exceed the width of the album, is self-supporting even when the album is fully opened and in use.

And yet a further object is to afford a photograph album of sturdy efficient construction yet truly artistic and unusually attractive in appearance.

With the foregoing and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention consists of certain novel features of construction, arrangement and a combination of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims, it being understood that various changes in the form, proportion, size and minor details of the structure may be made without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

For the purpose of facilitating an understanding of our invention, we have illustrated in the accompanying drawings preferred embodiments thereof, from an inspection of which, when considered in connection with the following description, our invention, its mode of construction, assembly and operation, and many of its advantages should be readily understood and appreciated.

Referring to the drawings in which the same characters of reference are employed to indicate corresponding or similar parts throughout the several figures of the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a view in perspective of a picture album embodying the principles of our invention with the album illustrated in upright position;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the same with a portion of the front cover broken away to illustrate in section a detail of construction;

Fig. 3 is a front elevational view of one of the picture-pocket pages of the album;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view of such a page as taken on the plane of line 4—4 in Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is an enlarged exploded view in perspective of the album illustrating in detail the various elements comprising the binding, spine and novel page-retaining member;

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary perspective view of the central spine member as viewed from the back thereof;

Fig. 7 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view taken on the plane of line 7—7 in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings and viewed in the direction indicated;

Fig. 8 is a further enlarged fragmentary sectional view taken on the plane of line 8—8 in Fig. 7 of the drawings and viewed in the direction indicated;

Fig. 9 is a fragmentary view partially in perspective and partially in section illustrating certain details of construction of the page-retaining member.

Referring now to the several figures of the drawings, reference numeral 20 indicates generally a photograph album comprising a front cover 22 and a back cover 24 joined together by a binding 26. Removably bound between the covers 22 and 24 may be a plurality of picture-storage-pages 28, the construction of which will be disclosed as the description proceeds.

Turning now to a more detailed consideration of the construction of the binding 26, attention is directed to Figs. 5, 6 and 7 of the drawings. The principal member of the binding comprises a hinged inner spine 30 composed of three strip elements 32, 34 and 36. The central element 34 is slightly curved about a longitudinal axis and is joined to the adjacent edges of the side strips 32 and 36 by means of integrally formed hinges 38 and 40.

Both the top and bottom edges of the central element 34 have a channel-shaped strip such as 37 and 39 affixed thereto as by welding one leg 42 of this strip to the back of the central strip 34 as at 41. The strips 37 and 39 thereby afford inwardly-protruding, horizontally-disposed

segments such as 43, a top depending flange 44 and a bottom upstanding flange 46 spaced from the element 34, and tongues such as 48 protruding outwardly one from each side of the flanges 44 and 46. The functions of these top and bottom channel strips 37 and 39 and the tongues 48 will be disclosed as the description proceeds. The central strip 34 is further formed with a plurality of transverse slots such as 50 spaced one from the other as illustrated in Fig. 5 of the drawings.

A pair of series of vertically aligned openings such as 52 may be formed, one series in each of the side strips 32 and 36. The openings are positioned in longitudinal spaced relationship one with the other in each series.

The above-mentioned openings 52 are designed to cooperate with similar openings such as 54 formed in similar longitudinal series, one near each edge of a pair of stiff inner cover members 56 and 58. Through each of these aligned openings 52—54, a fastening device such as a brad, rivet or the like (not shown) may be inserted, thereby assembling these inner covers to the central spine 30. These inner covers may then be adhered or fastened in any convenient manner to the inside faces of the outer covers 22 and 24; thereby assembling the covers with the spine.

Attention is now directed to the actual composition of the bindings, particularly the covers 22 and 24. It will be noted that both the back and front covers 22 and 24 are composed of stiffener members 60 and 62 respectively. These stiffener members may be formed from any conventional, binding stiffener material, such as pulp compositions (carboard, pressed board, etc.) or less conventional materials, such as wood, metal, plastic and the like. The outer binding material 64 may likewise be selected from the more conventional binding materials, such as buckram, textiles (linen, etc.), leather and the like, but we prefer to use velvet cloth. In applying the outer binding 64, the velvet is stretched to cover completely the outer surface of the stiffener members 60 and 62, and the edges such as 66 an 68 may then be bent over the outer edges of the stiffener members and adhered thereto. The inner covers 56 and 58 in turn cover the outer binding edges 66 and 68.

To complete the binding, especialy the back thereof, an outer spine member 70 may be utilized. This spine member 70 may comprise a strip of metal 72 arcuately bent and of sufficient size to exactly cover the back of the central strip 34 of the inner spine 30. A plurality of L-shaped tongues such as 74 composed of a short vertical leg 76 and a longer horizontally disposed leg 78 may be affixed as by spot welding at 80 to the inner surface of the back spine 70. These tongues 74 are aligned vertically and spaced one from the other so that the horizontal legs 78 may be inserted within the slots 50 formed in the inner spine 30. The ends of said legs 78 may then be bent over at an angle of substantially 90 degrees, whereby the outer back spine member 70 is assembled with the other binding members.

Obviously, before asembling the back spine 70, the metal strip 72 is first covered with a strip of velvet or other binding material 82, matching the outer covering of the covers, in a manner similar to that of the covers 22 and 24. In like manner the edges such as 84 may be bent over and adhered to the inside surface of the strip 72. This then completes the description of the outer covers and binding with the exception of certain details of construction of the front cover which will now be described.

Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings disclose a removable picture frame 86 positioned and retained within the front cover 22. This picture frame 86 may be of any conventional type, as for example, one assembled with a decorative molding 88 which provides an outwardly protruding flange-like portion 90. The balance of the frame may comprise the usual glass panel 92 covering a picture displayed in the area defined by the molding 88 and a back 94. If desired an easel support (not shown) may be affixed to the back 94.

To accommodate the picture frame 86, the front cover 22 may be formed with a recessed area 96 defined by walls such as 98, the dimensions of which are only slightly larger than those of the picture frame 86. Consequently, a friction-fitting is afforded between the picture frame and the walls 98. The friction fitting is most effective when a long nap material such as velvet is utilized as the outer covering material. When positioned within the recess 96, only the flange portion 90 protrudes, but actually blends with the cover and forms a part of the design.

Attention is now invited to the picture-storage-pages 28, the construction of which is best illustrated in Figs. 3, 4 and 8 of the drawings. Each of these pages comprises a central sheet 100 which may be made of pressed board or the like. This central sheet 100 has its inner marginal edge portion retained between the outer ends 102 and 104 of a mounting tape 106. This mounting tape 106 may comprise a fold of flexible but tough material, such as plastic, adhesive binding tape or the like, extending along the entire length of the page 28. Both sides of the fold may be adhered together as at 108 with the exception of the outer ends 102 and 104, which are instead adhered one to each side of the central sheet 100, and the apex of the fold which is left open to provide a cylindrical portion 110 containing a tubular passageway 112. Within this tubular passageway 112 may be positioned in either removable or fixed relationship, a retaining element 114 comprising a wire, string, rod or similar device; the function of which will be disclosed as the description unfolds.

Completing the storage page 28 may be a pair of sheets 116 and 118 each of which have their central areas cut out to afford picture displaying areas such as 120. Obviously the balance of the sheets 116 and 118 afford a picture frame having sides such as 122, 124, 126 and 128. The sides 124, 126 and 128 may be adhered to the central sheet 100 thereby affording picture pockets on both sides of the page. However, the inner side 122 may be left open to provide ingress means such as 130 through which the pictures or photographs may be inserted into the pockets.

We arrive now at the point in our description wherein we are about to describe a member which is believed to embody the very crux of the invention. This member is the element 132 which binds or retains the picture storage pages 28 within the album, but in removable relationship. Essentially the basic embodiment of the picture-page retaining-element, as best illustrated in Figs. 5 and 8 of the drawings, comprises a sheet of material—preferably metal, although other materials such as plastic, wood, rubber and the like may be used—which has been bent or otherwise formed to afford a plurality of grooves such as 134 with restricted passageways such as 136, by means of which the enlarged grooves may communicate to the outside. The grooves and passageways are parallelly positioned in spaced relationship one with the other. These grooves and passageways are thus defined by a series of serpentine curves such as 138 and 140; the curve 138 being of lesser radius than that of the curve 140. The larger radii curves 140 encompass the enlarged grooves 134, while the restricted passageways 136 are positioned at the point where the curvature of the larger curves 140 is reversed to form the smaller curves 138; the passageways 136 being defined by two adjacent such points.

In operation, the retaining element structure is best utilized as follows: The restricted passageways 136 are wide enough to admit the adhered portions 108 of the mounting tape 106 but too narrow to permit passage therethrough of the cylindrical portion 110 when the retaining element 114 is positioned therein. Hence, if the page 28 is positioned with its top or bottom end adjacent

either end of the element **132** and with the adhered tape portion **108** aligned with the restricted passageway **136** and the cylindrical portion **110** aligned with the enlarged groove **134**; the page may be inserted into the retaining element **132** by merely pushing it into the element (the groove **134** being of sufficient size to accommodate therein the wire-containing, cylindrical portion **110**). To remove the page, the retaining element **114** is removed and the page then pulled away from the member **132**, or the page **28** is merely slid out of the end of the member **132** in the same manner that it was inserted therein. It should be noted that the width of the flexible tape adhered portion **108** is sufficient to permit ready turning of the pages **28**.

To assemble the retaining member **132** into the cover assembly, the top end of the member **132** may be inserted in the space between the flange **44** and the strip **34**, and the bottom end in space defined by the upstanding flange **46** and the strip **34**. The tongues **48** are then bent over the sides thereby locking the retaining member in operative position. Obviously the material comprising the tongues **48** must possess the properties of both strength and pliability to permit bending. Metals such as brass or aluminum have proved to be quite satisfactory. As a matter of fact, the entire spine **30** may be made from such metals.

It is believed that our invention, its mode of construction and assembly, and many of its advantages should be readily understood from the foregoing without further description, and it should also be manifest that while preferred embodiments of the invention have been shown and described for illustrative purposes, the structural details are nevertheless capable of wide variation within the purview of our invention as defined in the appended claims.

What we claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. In a picture album of the character described, comprising a binding, including a front and back cover, a plurality of picture-pocket-pages removably bound within said binding and a page retaining element removably mounted within said binding; a removable picture frame mounted in said front cover, said picture frame forming a part of the design of said front cover, said front cover formed with a recessed area defined by side walls, said picture frame formed with a decorative molding flange and a picture displaying area, said latter-mentioned area defined by side walls, the side walls of said recessed area adapted to cooperate with the side walls of the picture-frame displaying area to frictionally retain said picture frame within said cover.

2. The picture album of claim 1 in which said decorative molding flange extends laterally beyond the marginal edges of said recessed area whereby to encircle the same.

3. The picture album of claim 1 in which at least the side walls of said recessed area are covered with a long nap material capable of being compressed sufficiently to admit therein said removable picture frame in tight fitting frictional relationship whereby to better retain said picture frame in said cover.


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