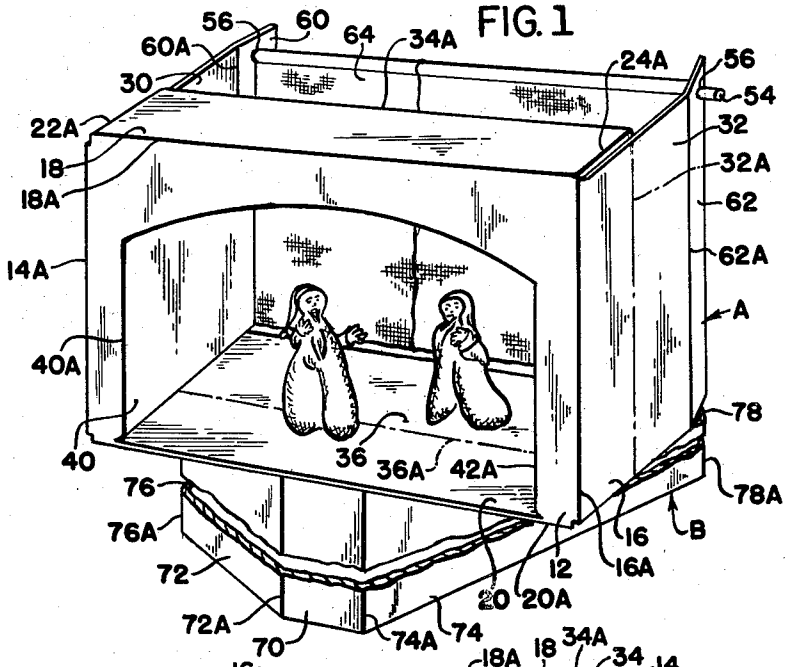
June 10, 1958 M. R. DUVALL 2,837,863

COMBINED PUPPET STAGE AND CARRYING CASE

Filed Oct. 2, 1957 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1



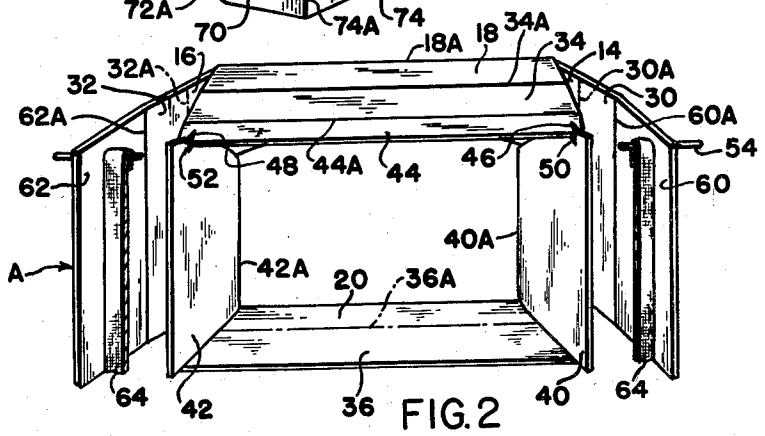


FIG. 2

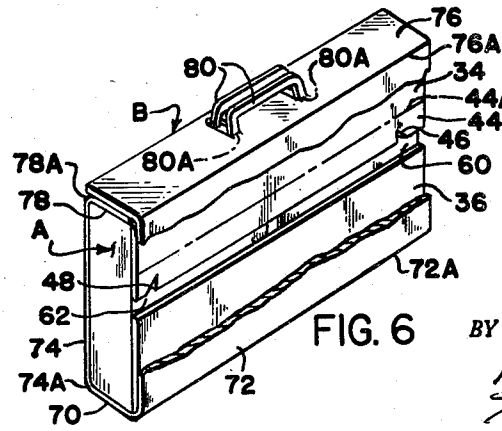


FIG. 6

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June 10, 1958 M. R. DUVALL 2,837,863

COMBINED PUPPET STAGE AND CARRYING CASE

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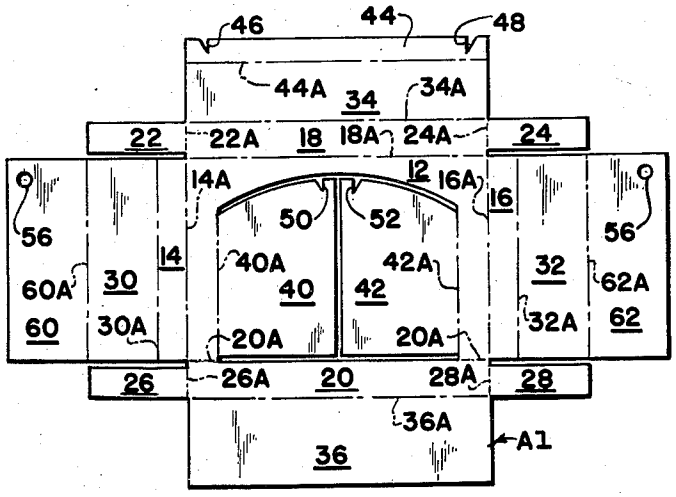

FIG. 4

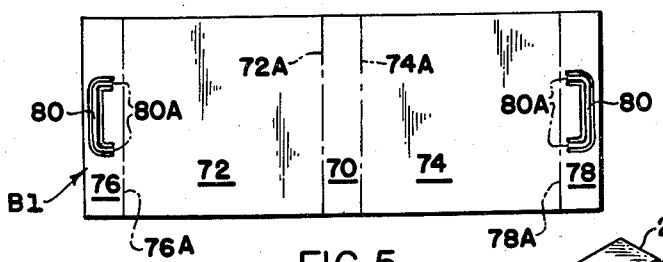

FIG. 5

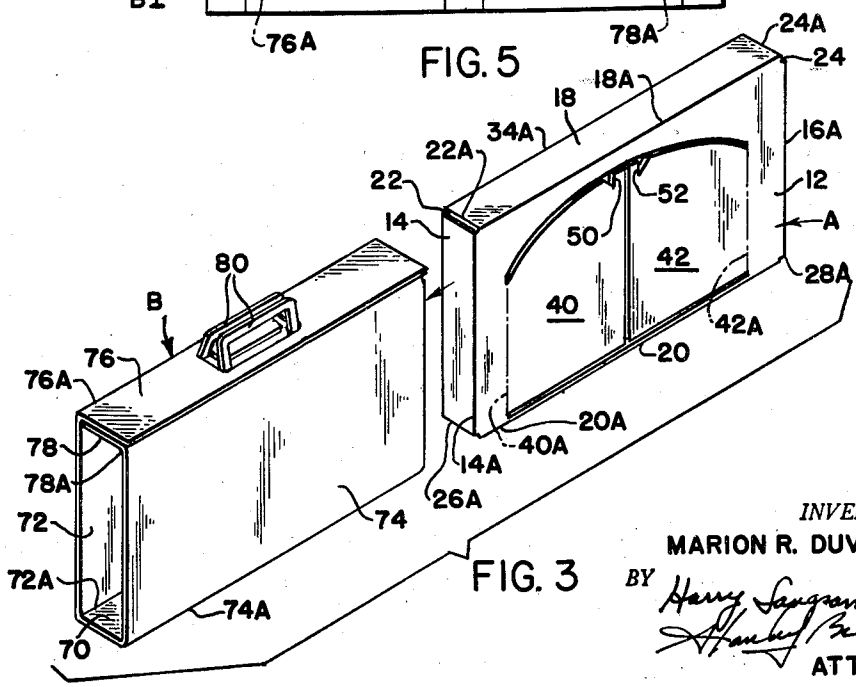

FIG. 3

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COMBINED PUPPET STAGE AND CARRYING CASE

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Application October 2, 1957, Serial No. 687,709

1 Claim. (Cl. 46—13)

My invention relates to a puppet stage and, more particularly, relates to a puppet stage which is readily collapsed into a compact carton wherein the puppets and stage props may be conveniently packed and the carton easily carried about from place to place.

Heretofore, collapsible puppet stages were constructed in such a manner that a plurality of individual severable components were adapted to be assembled in interlocking engagement when it was desired to set up the stage. As a result, therefore, the prior constructions were necessarily complex and costly. Furthermore, when it was expedient to collapse such stages for storage or to be carried for exhibition, the likelihood of misplacement and loss of one or more of the individual components was exceptionally great. Moreover, a separate carrying case was required to carry about not only the puppets and stage props, but also to hold the knocked down stage components.

It, therefore is an object of my invention to provide a collapsible puppet stage wherein the component stage elements are integrally joined in hinged relationship and adapted to be folded into a compact carton.

Another object of my invention is to provide a collapsible puppet stage which is constructed in the form of a self contained portable package.

Another object of my invention is to provide a collapsible puppet stage which does not require the use of nails or screws to effect erection thereof.

Other objects of my invention are to provide an improved device of the character described, that is easily and economically produced, which is sturdy in construction, and which is highly efficient in operation.

With the above and related objects in view, my invention consists in the details of construction and combination of parts, as will be more fully understood from the following description, when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a front perspective view of a combined puppet stage and carrying case embodying my invention.

Fig. 2 is a rear perspective view thereof.

Fig. 3 is an exploded view of the puppet stage in collapsed position and a sheath for carrying the collapsed stage therein.

Fig. 4 is a plan view of the blank from which the puppet stage is fabricated.

Fig. 5 is a plan view of the blank from which the sheath is formed.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view, and partly broken away, of the puppet stage collapsed within the sheath.

Referring now in greater detail to the drawings in which similar reference characters refer to similar parts, I show a collapsible puppet stage, generally designated as A, and a carrying sheath, generally designated as B, which acts as an envelope for and conveniently holds the stage in folded position for storage or hand transportation. The carrying sheath B further may act as an easel for

supporting the stage A when the latter is extended in exhibition position for operating the puppets.

The stage A in collapsed position has the shade of a conventional rectangular carton which has been assembled from a single cardboard or paperboard blank A1, as shown in Fig. 4. A rectangular front panel **12** has a pair of side edge panels **14** and **16** adjacent the lateral edges thereof along scored lines **14A** and **16A** respectively. A top edge panel **18** is secured to the upper edge of front panel **12** along scored line **18A** and a bottom edge panel **20** extends from the lower edge of the front panel along scored line **20A**. Tabs **22** and **24** extend laterally from the top edge panel **18** along scored lines **22A** and **24A** respectively, and tabs **26** and **28** are similarly disposed at the lateral edges of the bottom edge panel **20** along lines **26A** and **28A** respectively.

Laterally disposed and integrally hinged to the side edge panels **14** and **16** are wing panels **30** and **32** along fold lines **30A** and **32A** respectively. A portico **34** extends adjacent the top edge panel **18** and is foldably attached thereto along line **34A** and similarly disposed adjacent the bottom edge panel **20** is a base panel **36** hinged thereon along line **36A**.

The carton is formed by bending the edge panels upwardly at right angles to the front panel **12** and securing tabs **22** and **24** to the upper interior surface of the respective side edge panels **14** and **16** respectively by cementing or stapling after the tabs have inwardly bent along the respective fold lines **22A** and **24A**. The tabs **26** and **28** are respectively folded upwardly along lines **26A** and **28A**, thereafter being adhesively secured to the lower interior surface of the side edge panels **14** and **16**. As is readily seen, the various edge panels form a single peripheral edge or rim firmly secured in right angle relationship to the plane of the front panel. The portico **34**, the base panel **36** and the wing panels **30** and **32** may easily be folded inwardly along their respective fold lines into overlapping positions substantially parallel to the front panel and spaced therefrom to form a rear closed side of the carton wherein puppets and stage props may be conveniently stored.

Portals **40** and **42** are punched or slit in the front panel **12** and are integrally hinged thereto along lines **40A** and **42A** adjacent the side edges. In order to set up the stage for a puppet exhibition, the portals **40** and **42** are each folded backwardly parallel to each other in planes substantially perpendicular to the front panel **12**. The portico **34** is also folded in a plane perpendicular to the front panel coplanar with the top edge panel. A portico flap **44** foldably secured to the portico along lines **44A** and having spaced notches **46** and **48** is bent downwardly at **44A** wherein the notches engage slots **50** and **52** respectively at the top of the portals. See Fig. 2. The wings **30** and **32** are folded backwardly and are maintained in substantially parallel spaced relationship by a telescoping curtain rod **54** piercing apertures **56** therein. Wing extensions **60** and **62** are foldably joined to the outboard edges of the wing panels **30** and **32** along lines **60A** and **62A** respectively and provide adjustable means for supporting and stabilizing the stage A upon a suitable surface. The base panel **36** is folded into a substantially horizontal position to define a stage floor and a split curtain **64** longitudinally slidable upon the rod **54** forms a back drop behind which the puppet operator may be hidden.

The sheath blank B1 is of cardboard and comprises a control panel **70**, a pair of opposed sides **72**, **74** hingedly secured thereto along lines **72A** and **74A** respectively and a flap panel **76** and **78** foldably hinged to the exterior edge of each side along lines **76A** and **78A**. A handle **80** is punched in each of the flap panels **76** and **78** and

hinged along lines 80A. The central panel **70**, and the flap panels **76** and **78** are each identical in configuration to the top and bottom edge panels **18** and **20** of the stage A while the sides **72** and **74** are each commensurate with the front panel **12** thereof. It is easily seen that the sheath B may be folded into an open ended rectangular tube with the flap panels **76** and **78** overlaping and encase the stage A when the latter is collapsed into a carton, the handles **80** being folded upwardly for convenience in carrying. The sheath B may also be extended into a V-shaped horizontal configuration for supporting the stage A in exhibition position as shown in Fig. 1 to hide the legs of the puppet operator.

Although my invention has been described in considerable detail, such description is intended as being illustrative rather than limiting, since the invention may be variously embodied, and the scope of the invention is to be determined as claimed.

I claim as my invention:

A collapsible puppet stage adapted to be folded into a compact carrying case comprising a rectangular front panel, a peripheral edge extending at right angles to the

plane of said front panel, a pair of portals punched in said front panel and hingedly secured thereto adjacent the sides thereof, said portals being folded backwardly respectively into planes parallel to the side portions of said peripheral edge, a portico hingedly secured to the top portion of said peripheral edge, a flap longitudinally hinged to said portico and having notches therein in detachable interlocking engagement with slots at the top of said portals, a wing hingedly secured at each side portion of said peripheral edge, a rod interfitting at each end with an aperture in each wing and detachably maintaining said wings in spaced parallel relation, a curtain slidably supported on said rod and a base panel hingedly secured to the bottom of said peripheral edge to define a stage floor whereby the stage may be opened in exhibition position for displaying puppets or collapsed into a compact carton for storage thereof.

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