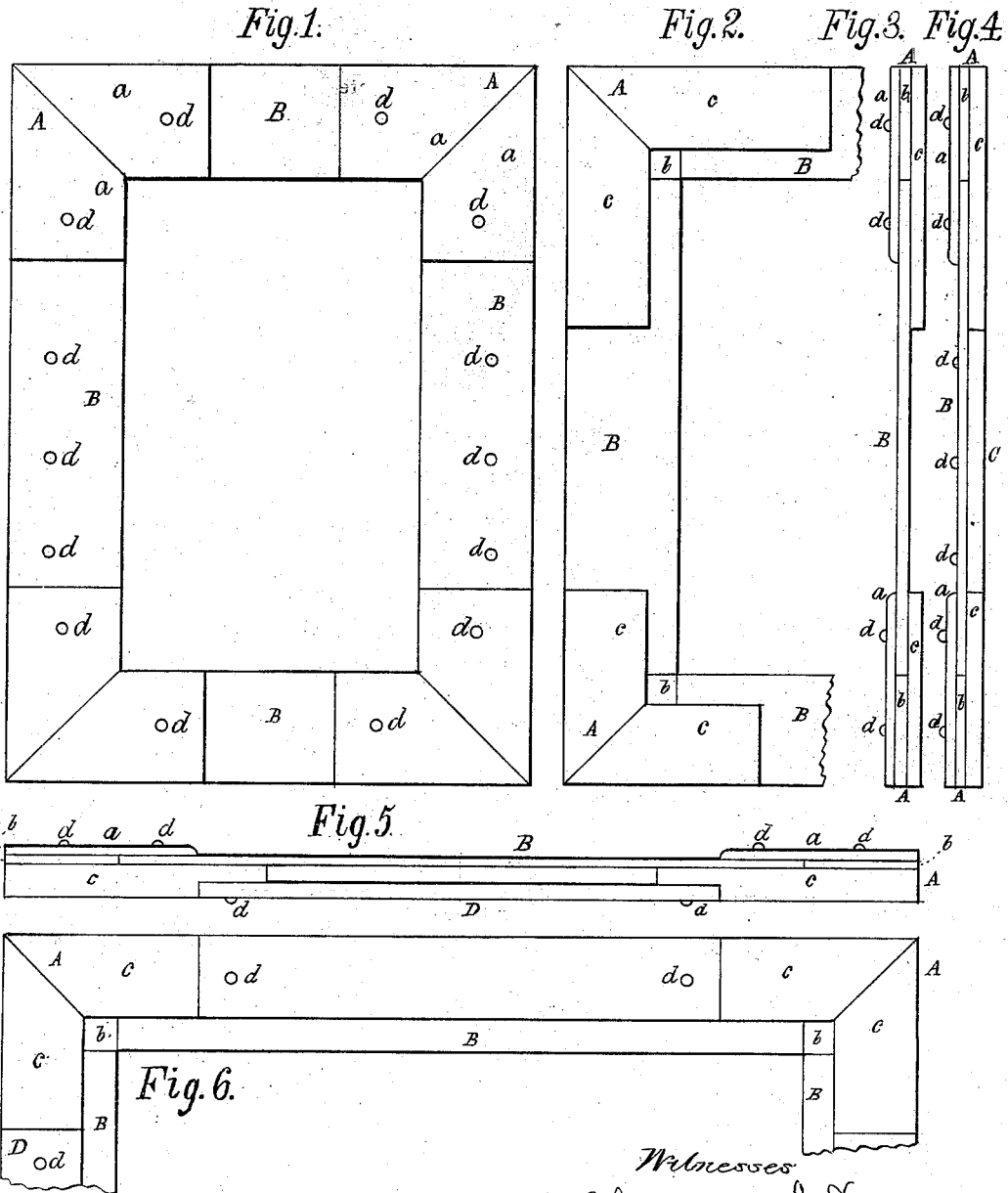


A. S. DAVIS.
Picture-Frame.

No. 205,250.

Patented June 25, 1878.



Witnesses:
Theo. J. Natterlein
Emil Muehle.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALEXANDER S. DAVIS, OF JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF HIS RIGHT TO GEORGE M. LAW, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN PICTURE-FRAMES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 205,250, dated June 25, 1878; application filed April 22, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALEXANDER S. DAVIS, of Jersey City, in the county of Hudson and State of New Jersey, have invented certain Improvements in Picture-Frames, and parts thereof, of which the following is a specification:

This invention is specially designed to furnish a ready and convenient means of framing small pictures, and to enable the public generally to make up their own picture-frames from ready-made parts, which can be conveniently kept in stock by small dealers, avoiding the necessity, on the one hand, on the part of the dealer of keeping a large variety of frames on hand, and on the other hand avoiding the necessity on the part of the users of sending their pictures to the factory and having a special frame made to order in each particular case.

The leading feature of the invention consists in the corner-pieces, hereinafter described, which are constructed to receive sides and ends, which may be readily cut to the proper length to make the size of picture-frame required.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a front view of a picture-frame embodying the leading feature of my invention, and also most of its details of construction. Fig. 2 is a back view of a portion of the same frame, showing also some modification in the construction of the corner-pieces. Fig. 3 is a side or edge view of the same without the back side filled in between the corner-pieces. Fig. 4 is a like view with the back side filled in. Fig. 5 is a top view of a picture-frame embodying the leading feature of my invention, and also showing a device for strengthening the back of the frame, and adapted more particularly to the construction of the largest sizes of frames of this kind. Fig. 6 is a back view of the upper portion of the same frame.

A A are corner-pieces, adapted and designed to receive the strips B B, which form the middle portions of the sides and ends. These corner-pieces are intended to be made up and sold separately as an article of manufacture, the strips B B being also provided ready made

to fit the corner-pieces, and in convenient lengths for sale.

Each corner-piece A is made up of five pieces of wood, *a a*, *b*, and *c c*. The front pieces *a a* should be made of some suitable ornamental wood to form a portion of the front of the frame, and are mitered together, as shown in Fig. 1. The back pieces *c c* are also mitered together, as shown in Figs. 2 and 6, and may be made of pine or other soft wood. The middle piece *b* is a simple flat piece of wood, placed between the parts *a a* and the parts *c c*, to give strength to the mitered joint, and to space the parts *c c* the proper distance apart from the parts *a a* to allow the side and end strips B B to be inserted snugly between them, as shown in the drawings. The parts *a a*, *b*, and *c c*, having been first formed, (which may be very rapidly done with proper machinery,) are united by glue or other means to form a corner-piece, such as is shown in the drawings. In some climates probably good gelatine glue will answer the purpose; but in particularly damp and changeable climates marine glue, composed of gum-shellac and gum-caoutchouc in solution, will hold them more strongly and safely together.

The corner-pieces being put together as described and properly finished, and, if desirable, ornamented, are then ready for sale as an article of manufacture; and it will be observed that there will be spaces left between them at their ends to receive the side and end strips B B, which latter should also be made of suitable wood to form a portion of the front of the frame, and properly finished. The fronts of these strips, as well as the front side of the corner-pieces, may be varnished, oiled, or otherwise finished, according to taste. The back pieces *c c* may be of the same length as the front pieces *a a*, as shown at the lower left-hand corner of Fig. 2; or they may be longer, as shown at the upper left-hand corner of the same figure, so as to give additional bearing to the strips B B. The strips B B may be furnished in long sticks, or they may be furnished in lengths approximating to those usually required, which latter will perhaps be preferable and most convenient. Some of these may be

out to lengths exactly adapted to the formation of frames of the most ordinary sizes, in which case no fitting will be required.

The user, having secured the necessary corner-pieces A A, and also the strips B B, (and, if necessary, reduced the latter to the length required,) proceeds to form the frame of the desired size by inserting the ends of the strips B B between the ends of the parts *a a* and *c c* of the corner-pieces, securing them with glue or other appropriate means to hold the frame together. As, however, the use of glue for this purpose would in many cases be inconvenient and its application imperfect, I am inclined to recommend the employment for this service of small round-headed brass pins *d d*, as shown in the drawings, which not only do not disfigure the frame, but will, on the contrary, be ornamental. To facilitate the proper location and easy insertion of these pins, very small holes may be made through the pieces *a a* in the process of manufacture; and, if found necessary to prevent splitting, or for any other reason desirable, small holes may be made with a minute brad-awl through the ends of the strips B B. These pins (and a cheap awl, if necessary) can be furnished with the other parts, and at trifling expense.

Should it be deemed desirable to stiffen the sides and ends B B, especially in the larger frames, this may be done by attaching to them the intermediate pieces C, (of the same width and thickness as the pieces *c c*,) either with glue or with pins *d d*, after the frame is put together, as shown. This also fills out the back of the frame so as to make it of the same

thickness throughout. These frames, particularly the larger ones, may also, if desirable, be greatly strengthened by forming a rabbet in the back and end of each of the pieces *c c*, and attaching a piece, D, (either with pins or with glue,) as shown in Figs 5 and 6. These pieces, and also the pieces C, properly dressed and ready for use, except perhaps as regards length, can be kept on hand and for sale with the other parts, if found desirable.

All these parts can be produced at a very trifling cost, and it is easy to see that by their use persons of very common understanding can make up their own picture-frames for small pictures in moments of leisure, and in sizes adapted to such particular pictures as they may have, and without the annoyance and expense of sending the pictures to be framed to order.

I claim as my invention—

1. As a new article of manufacture, the corner piece A, composed of the parts *a a*, *b*, *c c*, constructed and adapted to receive the strips B B, substantially as hereinbefore set forth.

2. The picture-frame hereinbefore described, combining in its construction the corner-pieces A A, composed of the parts *a a*, *b*, *c c*, and the strips B B, as and for the purpose set forth.

3. The combination of the corner-pieces A A, strips B B, and the piece D, substantially as hereinbefore set forth.

ALEXANDER S. DAVIS.

Witnesses:

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