



Europäisches Patentamt  
European Patent Office  
Office européen des brevets

⑪ Publication number:

0 000 273  
A1

⑫

## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

⑬ Application number: 78300081.3

⑮ Int. Cl.<sup>2</sup>: G 02 B 27/02, G 03 B 21/64

⑭ Date of filing: 27.06.78

⑩ Priority: 27.06.77 US 810255

⑥ Applicant: Stereoscopics Inc.,  
2 Thorncliffe Park Drive Unit 15,  
Toronto, Ontario, M4H 1H2 (CA)

⑪ Date of publication of application:  
10.01.79 Bulletin 79/1

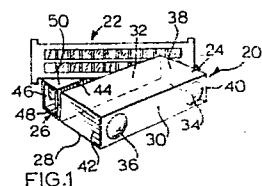
⑦ Inventor: Jenner, James Lawrence Cowan,  
19 South Drive,  
Toronto Ontario, M4W 1R2 (CA)

⑫ Designated Contracting States:  
DE FR GB SE

⑧ Representative: Hallam, Arnold Vincent et al,  
E.N. LEWIS & TAYLOR 144 New Walk,  
Leicester LE1 7JA (GB)

⑩ A stereoscopic film slide and viewer.

⑪ A stereoscopic film slide and a viewer are disclosed (figure 1). The slide (22) comprises a carrier (140) and a plurality of pairs of stereoscopic photographic transparencies (142) arranged in two superposed rows in which the transparencies in the respective rows are inverted with respect to one another so that one of the rows can be viewed in a slot (48) in the viewer (20) in which the slide (22) is longitudinally displaceable and the second row of transparencies can be viewed with the slide (22) in a second position in the viewer in which the slide is inverted compared to its first position. The viewer (20) is assembled from a cardboard blank (52) and includes front and rear portions (24 and 26, respectively) defining therebetween a slot (48) to receive the slide (22). The slot (48) has open ends and an open top and the rear portion (26) of the viewer is displaceable rearwardly to open the slot (48) to a generally V-shaped configuration for insertion of the film slide (22) into and removal thereof from the slot. The rear portion (26) of the viewer is maintained in its normal position by an elastic tension member (132) which extends diagonally of said portion.



EP 0 000 275

EP

- 1 -

A stereoscopic film slide and viewer

This invention relates to a stereoscopic film viewer for such a slide.

It has previously been proposed to make relatively simple stereoscopic viewers from folded cardboard blanks.

5 Examples of such viewers are disclosed in United States Patents Nos. 2,643,678; 2,934,999; and 3,734,596. Viewers of this general type are intended to be used for viewing transparencies mounted in a cardboard carrier which can be inserted into the viewer to bring the transparencies into 10 positions for viewing. In one example, the transparency carrier is in the form of a slide which can be inserted into and displaced through corresponding openings in opposite side walls of the viewer. In another example, the viewer has a slot in a top wall thereof and the carrier is 15 in the form of a card which is inserted vertically downwardly through the slot. The card carries two pairs of transparencies and can be inserted in the viewer in one of two positions for viewing one of the pairs. When the other pair is to be viewed, the transparency must be removed, inverted and re-inserted.

20

Viewers made from cardboard blanks have advantages in that they are relatively inexpensive to manufacture and that they may be designed to be collapsible for ease of storage. However, a problem with prior art viewers of the kind referred to above is that they have been designed to accept transparency carriers including only a small number

of transparencies. Accordingly, the range of application of such viewers has been somewhat limited.

An object of the present invention is to provide an improved stereoscopic film slide and viewer intended to avoid these problems.

According to one aspect of the invention there is provided a film slide for use in a stereoscopic viewer, the slide comprising a carrier and a film strip supported by said carrier and including a plurality of pairs of stereoscopic photographic transparencies arranged in two superposed rows in which the transparencies in the respective rows are inverted with respect to one another, and wherein the slide is dimensioned so that one of said rows can be viewed with the slide in a first position in the viewer in which the slide is longitudinally displaceable in said slot, and the second row of transparencies can be viewed with the slide in a second position in the viewer in which the slide is inverted compared with its first position, and in which the slide can be displaced longitudinally for viewing of the transparencies in said second row, and wherein the film slide carrier includes, at each end, oppositely directed projections extending generally normal to the length of the slide and each positioned to define by abutment with a portion of a viewer in use, an end position of the slide in which one of said pairs of transparencies is appropriately located for viewing.

According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a viewer intended to receive a film slide which includes a plurality of pairs of stereoscopic photographic transparencies. The viewer includes front and rear portions of rectangular box shape, having a common bottom wall. The front portion of the viewer includes first and second walls which upstand from the bottom wall in spaced, parallel positions and define respectively a front wall and a first intermediate wall of the viewer. A top wall connects the front wall and the first intermediate

wall. End walls define a substantially light-tight enclosure with said front wall, said first intermediate wall, and said top and bottom walls. A pair of lenses are spaced transversely of the front wall for viewing the  
5 transparencies in use. The rear portion of the viewer includes first and second walls spaced longitudinally of the bottom wall and defining respectively a second intermediate wall and a rear wall of the viewer. The second intermediate wall is disposed immediately adjacent the  
10 first intermediate wall of the front portion of the viewer and defines therewith a slot having open ends and an open top for receiving said film slide. The rear wall adjoins the bottom wall at a hinge line. A top wall extends between the second intermediate wall and the rear wall and  
15 adjoins said walls at respective hinge lines. The second intermediate wall is inclinable with respect to the first intermediate wall by displacing said top wall rearwardly of the viewer to open said slot to a generally V-shaped configuration for insertion of said film slide into and removal thereof from said slot. The first and second  
20 intermediate walls are formed with respective pairs of openings which are aligned generally with the transparencies in each pair on the film slide, and the rear wall is formed with at least one opening through which light enters the  
25 viewer for illuminating the transparencies in use. An elastic tension member extends generally diagonally of the rear portion of the viewer and is arranged to normally maintain said portion in a configuration in which the second intermediate wall and rear walls are disposed generally parallel to the front wall and first intermediate wall of the front portion of the viewer.

In order that the invention may be more clearly understood, reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings which illustrate one embodiment thereof by way  
35 of example, and in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a viewer accord-

ing to the invention with a film slide partly inserted therein;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of a cardboard blank from which the viewer of Fig. 1 is assembled;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the blank of Fig. 2 in a partly assembled condition;

Fig. 4 is a longitudinal sectional view through the assembled viewer, taken generally on line IV-IV of Fig. 3;

10 Fig. 5 shows the viewer of the previous figures in a collapsed condition in a combined display and mailing container;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view showing the container of Fig. 5 on display; and,

15 Fig. 7 shows the container ready for mailing.

The viewer shown in the drawings is assembled from a cardboard blank as will be described and is designed to be collapsible for ease of storage and transportation. In fact, the particular viewer illustrated has been designed so that it can be sold in a form suitable for mailing along with one or more film slides in a mailing container such as that shown in Figs. 5 to 7. It is however to be understood that there is no limitation in this respect.

20 Referring first to Fig. 1, the viewer is generally denoted 20 and a film slide for insertion in the viewer is denoted 22. Slide 22 carries stereoscopic pairs of photographic transparencies as will be described. The viewer includes front and rear portions 24 and 26 respectively having a common bottom wall 28. The front portion 26 includes first and second walls 30 and 32 respectively which upstand from the bottom wall 28. Wall 30 forms the front wall of the viewer, while wall 32 forms a first intermediate wall. A pair of lenses 34, 36 are spaced transversely of the front wall 30 for use in viewing the transparencies on slide 22.

25 Top wall 38 extends between the front wall 30

**BAD ORIGINAL**

and the first intermediate wall 32 of the viewer. End walls 40 and 42 define with the other walls of the front portion 26, an enclosure which is substantially light-tight within the limitations of folded cardboard construction, except for the lenses 34 and 36 and two viewing apertures (to be described) in wall 32.

The rear portion 26 of the viewer includes first and second walls 44 and 46 which are spaced longitudinally of the bottom wall 28 and which define respectively a second intermediate wall and a rear wall of the viewer. It will be noted that the second intermediate wall 44 is disposed immediately adjacent the first intermediate wall 32 of the front portion of the viewer and defines therewith a slot 48 having open ends and an open top for receiving the film slide 22. A top wall 50 extends between the second intermediate wall 44 and a rear wall 46. The rear portion 26 of the viewer is open-ended.

Reference will now be made to Fig. 2 in describing the blank from which the viewer is assembled. The blank is denoted 52 and is die cut from relatively light cardboard stock in the shape shown in Fig. 2 (in which the inner surface of the blank is uppermost). The blank includes a plurality of rectangular panels which are disposed in a series extending longitudinally of the blank, and which adjoin one another at fold lines indicated by dotted lines. Those panels which form the walls of the assembled viewer referred to previously are identified by primed reference numerals corresponding to the numerals used to denote the corresponding walls in Fig. 1. For example, the panel at the extreme left hand end of the blank as viewed in Fig. 2 is denoted 44' and forms the second intermediate wall 44 of the rear portion of the viewer. This panel is formed with two rectangular openings 54 and 56, each of a size corresponding generally to the size of one of the photographic transparencies in film slide 22. The openings are spaced to correspond with the



spacing between respective transparencies in each pair on the slide. Adjacent panel 44' is a panel 50' which forms the top wall of the rear portion of the viewer, and which adjoins panel 44' at a fold line 58. The 5 next panel in the series is panel 46' which adjoins panel 50' at a fold line 60, and which forms the rear wall 46' of the viewer. Two apertures 62 and 64 are provided in panel 46' in positions corresponding generally to the positions of the apertures 54 and 56 in panel 10 44', for the purpose of admitting light to the interior of the viewer as will be described.

Panel 28' forms the bottom wall of the viewer and adjoins panel 46' at a fold line 66 which defines a hinge between the rear wall of the viewer and the bottom 15 wall in the assembled viewer. At its edge opposite fold line 66, panel 28' adjoins a panel 30', which forms the front wall of the viewer. The fold line between panels 28' and 30' is denoted 68. Panel 30' is formed with two circular 20 openings 70 and 72 intended to receive the two circular lenses 34 and 36 shown in Fig. 1. The lenses are held in place by two flaps 76 and 78 which adjoin opposite end edges of panel 30' at fold lines 80 and 82 and which are formed with respective openings 84 and 86 positioned to co-operate with the corresponding openings in panel 30' 25 when the tabs 76 and 78 are folded inwardly. Thus, each lens is of circular shape with a thin peripheral flange as indicated at 36a in Figs. 3 and 4 and is received in the appropriate one of the openings in panel 30'. The lenses are held in place by folding the associated tabs 30 76 and 78 inwardly and securing the tabs by adhesive to the inner surface of the panel so that their peripheral flanges are trapped between the tabs and wall 30.

Panel 38' forms the top wall of the front portion 24 of the viewer. It adjoins panel 30' at a fold

line 88 and has at opposite ends thereof, the panels 40' and 42' which define the end walls of the front portion of the viewer. Fold lines 90 and 92 are provided between panel 38' and the end panels 40' and 42' respectively.

5 These panels have respective outwardly extending tabs 94 and 96 which are used to secure the end walls in the positions in which they are shown in Fig. 1, as will be more specifically described in connection with Fig. 3.

10 Adjacent panel 38' is a panel 32' which forms the first intermediate wall of the viewer, and which adjoins panel 38' at a fold line 98. Panel 32' is formed with generally rectangular openings 100 and 102 positioned to correspond with the openings 54 and 56 in panel 44'. Further, panel 32' has at its ends tabs 104 and 106 which 15 adjoin the panel at fold lines 108 and 110. The panel at the right hand end of the blank is denoted 112 and adjoins panel 32' at a fold line 114. Panel 112 forms an inner bottom wall of the front portion of the viewer in its assembled condition. End portions of the panel 112 are 20 formed with depressions 116 and 118 respectively which are shaped to receive the tabs 94 and 96 on the end panels 40' and 42' as will be described.

25 The steps involved in assembling the blank will now be described, primarily with reference to Fig. 3. The first step is to position the lenses in the openings 70 and 72 in panel 30' as mentioned previously and fold inwardly and secure to panel 30' the tabs 76 and 78. The front portion of the viewer is then assembled by successively folding inwardly the panels 112, 32', 38' and 30' to bring the 30 front portion 24 of the viewer to the generally rectangular configuration in which it appears in Fig. 3 in which panel 112 overlies part of the bottom wall 28. Panel 112 is then secured by adhesive to the inner surface of the bottom wall. The viewer appears in this condition in Fig. 3. 35 The tabs 104 and 106 at the ends of the first intermediate wall 32 are then folded inwardly as indicated by the arrow.

120 in Fig. 3 to bring the tabs to positions in which they are disposed at right angles to panel 32'. Then end panels 40' and 42' are then folded downwardly as indicated by arrow 122 and the associated end flaps 94 and 96 are tucked between the bottom wall 28 and panel 112. In this connection, it is to be noted that the depressions 116 and 118 in panel 112 (Fig. 2) define with the bottom wall 28, spaces to receive the flaps, one of which is indicated at 124 in Fig. 3. The flaps 94 and 96 are merely push-fitted into these spaces and are not retained by adhesive. It will be appreciated that insertion of these flaps rigidifies the front portion 24 of the viewer.

The next step in assembling the viewer is to fold inwardly the panels 44', 50' and 46' to form the rear portion of the viewer, as indicated by arrow 126 in Fig. 3. Thus, it will be seen that the free outer edge of end panel 44' will be brought to a position adjacent the junction between the first intermediate wall panel 32' and the bottom wall 28. Accordingly, the first and second intermediate panels 32' and 44' respectively will be disposed immediately adjacent one another and define said slot 48 for receiving the film slide 22. The respective pairs of openings 62, 64; 54, 56 and 100, 102 in the panels 46', 44', and 32' respectively will be optically aligned with one another and with the lenses in the front wall at this time so that two corresponding transparencies in the film slide 22 can be viewed through the lenses and will be illuminated by light entering the viewer through the rear wall openings 62 and 64. A screen indicated at 130 in Fig. 3, of a translucent plastic material, is secured by adhesive to the inner surface of the rear wall 46 to diffuse incoming light.

Fig. 4 is a longitudinal sectional view through the assembled viewer and shows the film slide 22 in the slot 43 defined between the first and second intermediate walls 32 and 44 respectively of the viewer. It will be

seen that both the front portion 24 and the rear portion 26 of the viewer adopts a rectangular configuration at this time. The rear portion 26 is retained in this configuration by an elastic tension member 132 which extends generally diagonally of portion 26. In this embodiment, the member 132 is formed by a length of elastic 134 which extends through an opening in the rear end wall 46 between the openings 62 and 64, and an opening in the bottom wall 28 adjacent intermediate wall 44, and which is fitted with tabs 136 and 138 at its ends. As a result of the action of member 132, the rear end portion 26 of the viewer is urged against the film slide 22 so that the slide is frictionally retained in slot 48, whereby the transparencies are positively located in relation to the openings in the intermediate walls of the viewer.

It will also be appreciated that the design of the rear end portion 26 of the viewer allows the slot 48 to be opened to a V-shaped configuration to facilitate insertion of the film slide into and removal thereof from the slot 48. This will normally be accomplished by displacing rearwardly of the viewer the top wall 50 of the rear end portion 26 to cause the portion to, in effect, distort from its normal rectangular shape to the parallelogram shape indicated in chain dotted line in Fig. 4. The film slide 22 can then be readily removed from or displaced in the film slot without the frictional restraint imposed by the rear end portion 26 of the viewer. As soon as portion 26 is released, however, the elastic tension member 132 will cause it to return to its rectangular configuration, restraining the film slide in slot 48.

The film slide 22 is shown in front view in Fig. 5 (to be described). The slide is in the form of a cardboard carrier 140 formed by two thin cardboard sheets between which is secured a film strip which includes a plurality of individual photographic transparencies indicated at 142. The transparencies are arranged in two rows in

carrier 140 and each row includes a plurality of stereoscopic pairs of transparencies. The transparencies in each pair are denoted by the same numeral and the left hand transparency in each pair is designated by the suffix L, while the right hand transparency is indicated by the suffix R. Thus, it will be seen that the bottom row of transparencies in the carrier includes five pairs denoted 1L-1R to 5L-5R. The top row includes a further five pairs of transparencies denoted 6L-6R to 10L-10R.

5 The transparencies in the two rows are inverted with respect to one another and the series of transparencies in each row runs from left to right of the row as seen when the row is oriented for viewing. It will be seen that the transparencies in each row comprise a continuous series

10 of pairs of left and right hand stereoscopic frames arranged with the left and right hand frames of each pair spaced from one another longitudinally of the relevant row by four intervening frames and disposed adjacent the respective frames of the next row in the series. The frames in the

15 rows are arranged in the following sequence:

20 Row 1: 1<sub>L</sub> - 2<sub>L</sub> - 3<sub>L</sub> - 4<sub>L</sub> - 5<sub>L</sub> - 1<sub>R</sub> - 2<sub>R</sub> - 3<sub>R</sub> - 4<sub>R</sub> - 5<sub>R</sub>

Row 2: 6<sub>L</sub> - 7<sub>L</sub> - 8<sub>L</sub> - 9<sub>L</sub> - 10<sub>L</sub> - 6<sub>R</sub> - 7<sub>R</sub> - 8<sub>R</sub> - 9<sub>R</sub> - 10<sub>R</sub>

25 The slide is initially disposed in the viewer in its extreme right hand position as seen in Fig. 1 in which views 1L and 1R are aligned with the openings in the first and second intermediate walls of the viewer and with the lenses 34 and 36. To view subsequent transparencies in that row, the slide is moved in steps to the left. When the slide reaches its extreme left hand position, it is removed

30 from the viewer as described previously, inverted and reinserted in slot 44. Again starting from the extreme right hand position, the viewer is then moved incrementally in steps to the left for viewing of transparencies 6L-6R to 10L-10R. Accordingly, ten pairs of transparencies can be

35 viewed in sequence.

The film slide carrier 140 is shaped to define projections 146, 148 and 150, 152 at its ends, which abut with the bottom wall 28 of the viewer when the film slide is in its extreme left and right hand positions. The projections are spaced from the transparencies so that they serve to orient the film slide longitudinally with the appropriate pair of transparencies positioned ready for viewing. For example, when projection 148 is in contact with the relevant edge of the bottom wall 28 as seen in Fig. 1, transparencies 1L and 1R are positioned for viewing.

As indicated previously, it is intended that the viewer of Figs. 1 to 4 will be sold in a collapsed condition in a mailing container of the form shown in Figs. 5 to 7. The viewer is shown in its collapsed condition in Fig. 5 and the mailing container is shown partly assembled at 154. The viewer is collapsed by disengaging the tabs 94 and 96 on the end walls 40 and 42 respectively of the front viewer portion so that these parts of the viewer adopt generally the positions shown in Fig. 3, and flattening the viewer so that the top walls 38 and 50 of the front and rear viewer portions fold down onto the bottom wall 28. The viewer is shown generally in this condition in Fig. 5 with the tabs 94 and 96 folded under the end walls 40 and 42. It will of course be appreciated that the viewer will not normally have been previously assembled when it is placed in the mailing container in practice; the viewer will be partly assembled from a blank generally into the form shown in Fig. 3 and then will be collapsed as described and placed inside the mailing container.

Container 154 is generally of envelope form. It includes rectangular front and rear panels 154 and 158 respectively connected at a fold line 160. Fold-in tabs 162, 164 and 166 are provided at the respective outer edges of the rear panel 158 and are adhesively coated on their outer surfaces. To assemble the mailing container, the collapsed

viewer 20 is placed on the inner surface of the rear wall 158 as shown in Fig. 5. One or more film slides 22 are then placed on top of the viewer, together with any appropriate descriptive material (not shown). The tabs 162, 5 164 and 166 are then folded inwardly and the front panel 154 is folded down onto the tabs and secured by the adhesive thereon. The assembled package is then inserted into a flexible plastic envelope such as that indicated at 168 in Fig. 6. The front panel 154 of the mailing 10 container is perforated at 170 to receive a suspension element 172 of a display rack in a store or the like.

The outer surface of the mailing container is printed with appropriate descriptive and/or decorative material. In addition, the outer surface of the rear 15 panel 158 is printed to define space for an address as indicated at 174 and for a stamp as indicated at 176. The front panel 156 of the mailing container is slightly longer than the rear panel 158 and includes an end portion 156a in which the perforation 170 is formed. This portion is 20 detachable from the remainder of the panel by tearing along a line of perforations 178 when the package is ready for mailing.

It will be appreciated that the viewer provided by the invention is relatively simple and inexpensive to 25 manufacture and is readily collapsible for ease of storage and/or mailing as described. Also, the viewer design allows for use of a film slide bearing a relatively large 30 number of transparencies for viewing. This is a significant advantage compared with prior art viewer designed to accept transparency carriers having only a small number of transparencies thereon. In this connection, it is to be noted 35 that the preceding description relates to a specific embodiment of the invention only, and that many modifications are possible within the broad scope of the invention. For example, the film slide 22 shown in the drawings is an example only and that a longer film slide having a greater

number of transparencies could be used. The viewer could be constructed somewhat differently from that shown in the drawings. The second intermediate wall of the rear portion of the viewer could be permanently attached to 5 the bottom wall 28, e.g. by hinged adhesive tab. Further, it is not essential that the viewer be collapsible. The end walls of the front portion of the viewer could be permanently secured in place, for example, if the viewer was intended to be used in an environment in which collapsibility was not important. The elastic tension member 10 132 may of course be of a form other than that specifically described. For example, in other embodiments, a metal coil spring or an elastic rubber element could be used. Also, the mailing container may be somewhat different from that 15 specifically described. The mailing container may be in the form of an envelope having perforations extending along marginal portions thereof so that the container can be opened by tearing along said perforations and removing 20 marginal portions of the envelope.

It is to be noted that the term photographic transparency as used herein is to be interpreted broadly as denoting simply an image on film whether the image appears as an individual photograph frame or as part of a filmstrip.

25 Finally, it should be noted that the slide disclosed in the present application may be used in viewers other than that specifically described herein.

## Claims:

1. A film slide for use in a stereoscopic viewer (20), the slide (22) comprising a carrier (140) and a film strip supported by said carrier, characterized in that the film slide includes a plurality of pairs of stereoscopic photographic transparencies (142) arranged in two superposed rows in which the transparencies in the respective rows are inverted with respect to one another, and wherein the slide (22) is dimensioned so that one of said rows can be viewed with the slide (22) in a first position in a slot (48) in the viewer (20) in which the slide (22) is longitudinally displaceable in said slot, and the second row of transparencies can be viewed with the slide (22) in a second position in the viewer in which the slide is inverted compared with its first position, and in which the slide can be displaced longitudinally for viewing of the transparencies in said second row, and wherein the film slide carrier (140) includes, at each end, oppositely directed projections (146, 148, 150, 152) extending generally normal to the length of the slide (22) and each positioned to define by abutment with a portion of a viewer (20) in use, an end position of the slide (22) in which one of said pairs of transparencies is appropriately located for viewing.
2. A film slide as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the transparencies (142) each row comprise a continuous series of pairs of left and right hand stereoscopic frames (1L-10L and 1R-10R) arranged with the left and right hand frames of each pair spaced from one another longitudinally of the relevant row by four intervening frames and disposed adjacent the respective frames of the next pair in the series.
3. A film slide as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the frames in the said rows are arranged in the following sequence: -

- 2 -

Row 1: 1<sub>L</sub> - 2<sub>L</sub> - 3<sub>L</sub> - 4<sub>L</sub> - 5<sub>L</sub> - 1<sub>R</sub> - 2<sub>R</sub> - 3<sub>R</sub> - 4<sub>R</sub> - 5<sub>R</sub>

Row 2: 6<sub>L</sub> - 7<sub>L</sub> - 8<sub>L</sub> - 9<sub>L</sub> - 10<sub>L</sub> - 6<sub>R</sub> - 7<sub>R</sub> - 8<sub>R</sub> - 9<sub>R</sub> - 10<sub>R</sub>

wherein the numerals referred to above denote successive pairs of frames and the letters L and R indicate respectively the left and right hand frames of each pair.

4. A viewer (20) for a film slide (22) including a plurality of pairs of stereoscopic photographic transparencies (142), the viewer being characterized in that it comprises front and rear portions (24 and 26 respectively) of 10 rectangular box shape, having a common bottom wall (28);

said front portion (24) including:

first and second walls (30 and 32 respectively) which upstand from said bottom wall (28) in spaced parallel positions and define respectively a front wall and a first 15 intermediate wall of the viewer; a top wall (38) extending between said front wall (30) and said first intermediate wall (32); end walls (40 and 42) defining with said front wall (30), said first intermediate wall (32) and said top (38) and bottom walls (28), a substantially light-tight enclosure; and a pair of lenses (34, 36) spaced transversely of said front wall (30) for viewing the transparencies in use;

said rear portion (26) including:

first and second walls (44 and 46 respectively) spaced longitudinally of said bottom wall (28) and defining respectively a second intermediate wall and a rear wall of the viewer, said second intermediate wall (44) being disposed immediately adjacent said first intermediate wall (32) of the front portion (24) of the viewer (20) and defining therewith a slot (48) having open ends and an open top for receiving said film slide (22), and said rear wall (46) adjoining said bottom wall (28) at a hinge line (66), a top wall (50) which extends between said second intermediate wall (44) and rear wall (46) and adjoins said wall at respective hinge lines, said second intermediate wall (44) being inclinable with respect to said first intermediate wall (32).

10        wall (32) by displacing said top wall (50) rearwardly  
15        of the viewer to open said slot to a generally V-shaped  
      configuration for insertion of said film slide (22) into  
      and removal thereof from said slot (48), said first and  
      second intermediate walls (32 and 44 respectively) being  
      formed with respective pairs of openings (100, 102; 54,  
      66) which are aligned generally with the transparencies  
      (142) in each pair in the film slide (22), and said rear  
      wall (46) being formed with at least one opening (62, 64)  
      through which light enters the viewer for illuminating  
      said transparencies (142) in use; and an elastic tension  
      member (132) extending generally diagonally of said rear  
      portion (26) of the viewer and arranged to normally main-  
      tain said portion in a configuration in which said second  
      intermediate wall (44) and rear wall (46) are disposed  
      generally parallel to said front wall (30) and first  
      intermediate wall (32) of the front portion (24) of the  
      viewer.

20        5.        A viewer as claimed in claim 4, characterized in  
      that said rear portion (26) of the viewer is open-ended,  
      and wherein each of said end walls (40 and 42) of the  
      front portion (24) of the viewer is coupled to one of  
      said top (38) and bottom walls (28) of said portion at a  
      hinge line (90, 92 respectively) and is adapted to be re-  
      25        movably coupled to the other of said walls when the viewer  
      is in the assembled condition, so that said walls can be  
      uncoupled to permit the viewer to be collapsed into a  
      generally flat condition.

25        6.        A viewer as claimed in claim 5, characterized  
      in that each of said end walls (40, 42) is coupled to said  
      top wall (38) of the front portion (24) of the viewer, and  
      includes an outwardly projecting flap (94, 96 respectively),  
      and wherein said front portion (24) of the viewer further  
      includes an inner bottom wall (112) which overlies part  
      of the outer bottom wall (28), said flaps (94, 96) on

the end walls (40, 42) being engageable between said bottom wall (28) and said inner bottom wall (112) to detachably couple said end walls (40, 42) to the bottom wall of the viewer in its assembled condition.

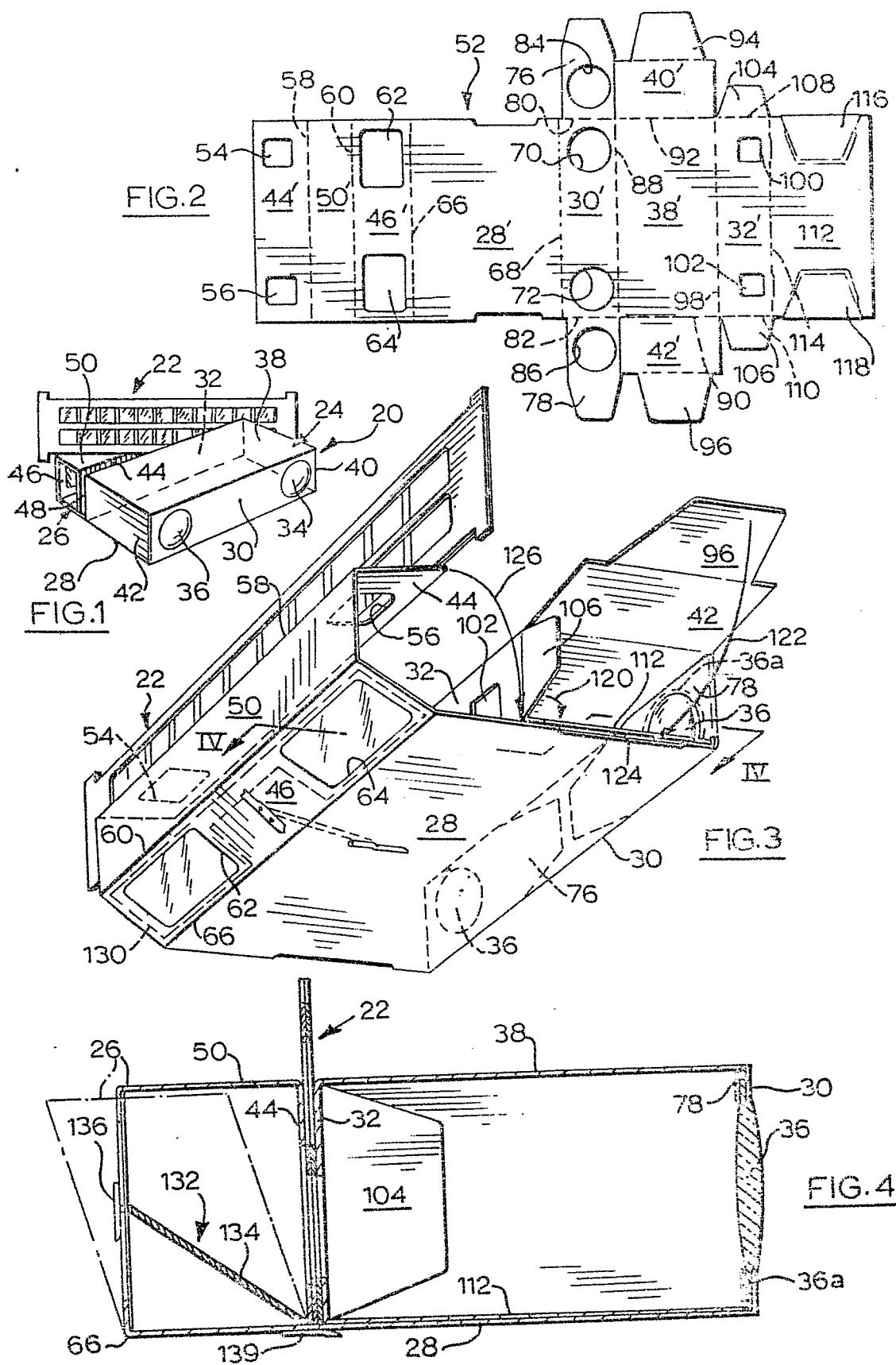
5       7.       A viewer as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that in said rear wall (46), top wall (50) and second intermediate wall (44) of the rear portion (26) of the viewer are formed by three rectangular panels which are hingeable with respect to one another and which normally 10 adopt a configuration in which the panels are disposed in planes mutually at right angles to one another with said second intermediate wall (44) and rear wall (46) parallel to the front wall (30) and first intermediate wall (32) of the front portion (24) of the viewer.

15      8.       A viewer as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that elastic tension member (132) extends through respective openings in the rear wall (46) of the viewer and in said bottom wall (28) adjacent said first intermediate wall (32), and has outer ends fitted with tabs (136, 139) 20 retaining the member in position.

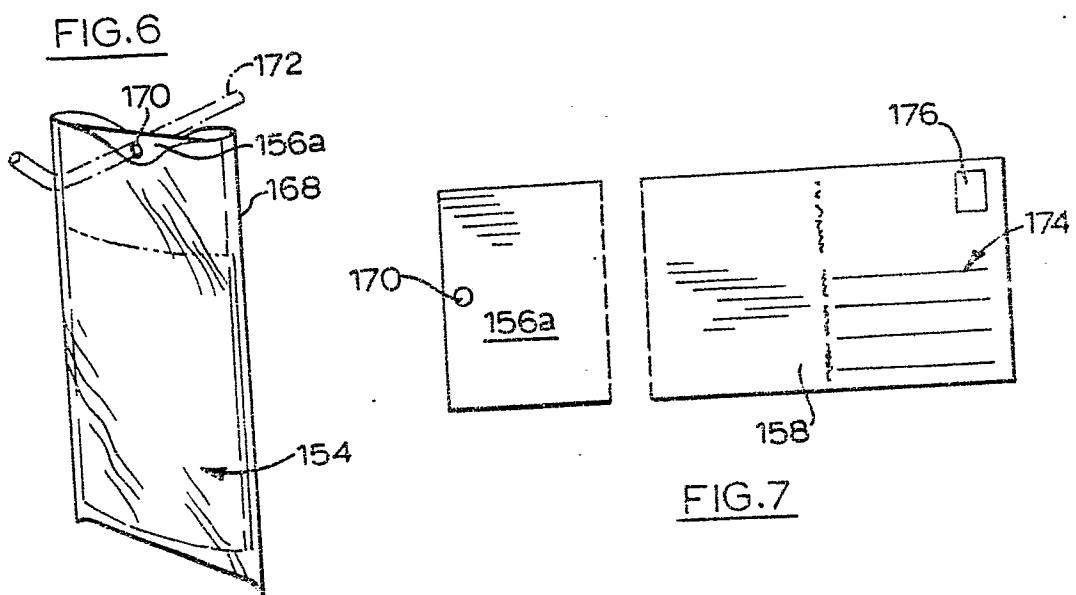
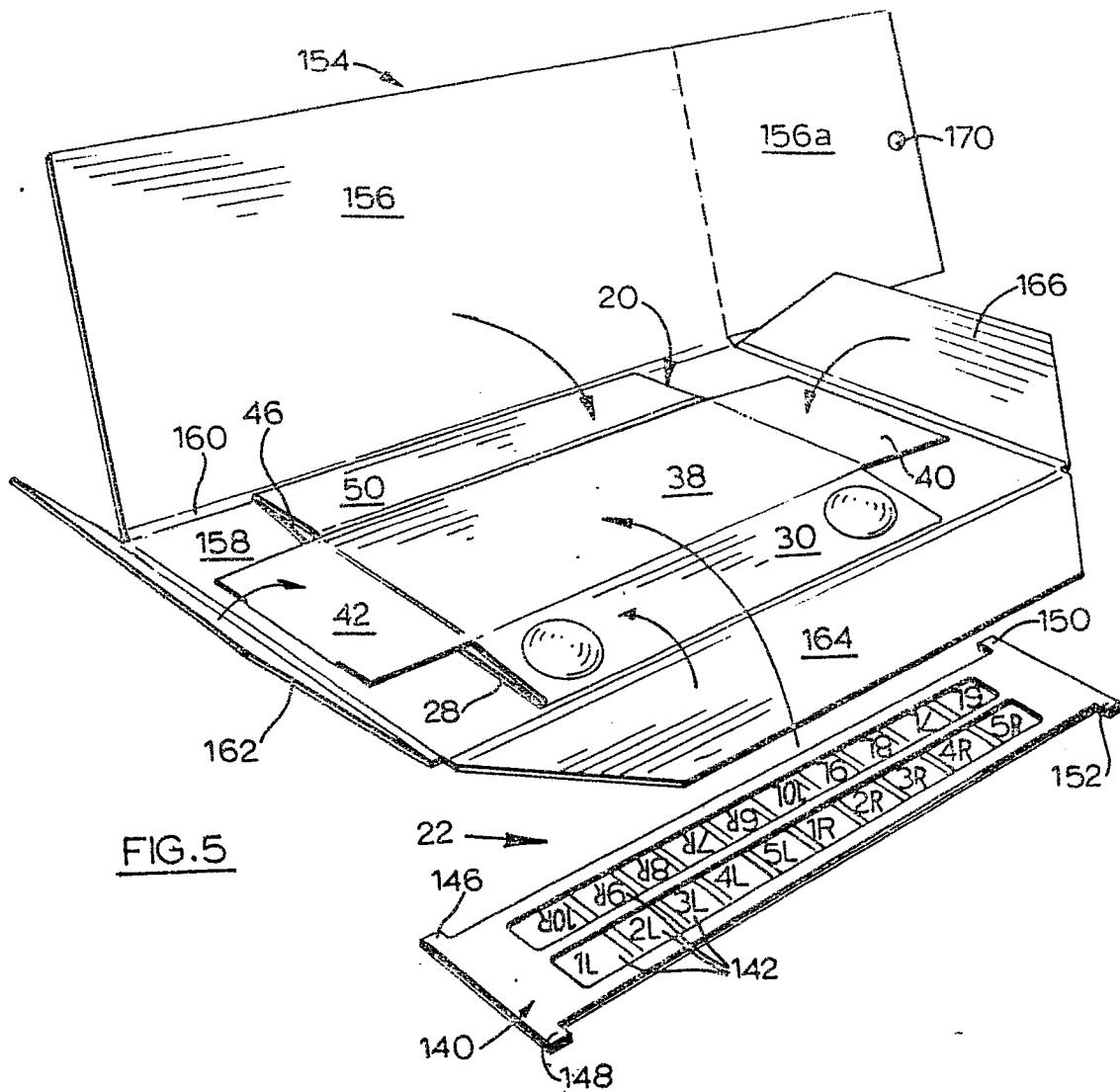
9.       A viewer as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that it is combined with a film slide (22) comprising a carrier and a film strip supported by said carrier (140) and including a plurality of pairs of stereoscopic photographic transparencies (142) arranged in two superposed rows in which the transparencies in the respective rows are inverted with respect to one another, and wherein the slide (22) is dimensioned so that one of said rows can be viewed with the slide in a first position in a slot (48) 25 the viewer in which the slide is longitudinally displaceable in said slot (48), and the second row of transparencies can be viewed with the slide (22) in a second position in the viewer (20) in which the slide (22) is inverted compared with its first position, and in which the slide can 30 be displaced longitudinally for viewing of the transparencies 35

in said second row, and wherein said carrier (140) includes, at each end, oppositely directed projections (146, 148, 150, 152) extending generally normal to the length of the slide (22) and each positioned to define by abutment with a portion of said viewer (20), an end position of the slide (22) in which one of said pairs of transparencies is appropriately located for viewing through said lenses (34, 36).

10. The combination of a viewer (20) and a film slide (22) as claimed in claim 9, where the viewer (20) is disposed in a collapsed condition, and a mailing container (154) in the form of an envelope containing said collapsed viewer (20) and said one film slide (22).



0000275





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	Cited in application
	<u>FR - A - 1 037 644 (PHOTART)</u> * Page 1, column 2, lines 21-29; figure 1 *	1-3	G 02 B 27/02 G 03 B 21/64
	<u>FR - A - 1 147 784 (GUEBIN)</u> * Page 1, column 2, lines 7-10; figure 5 *	1	
D	<u>US - A - 3 734 596 (G.NERLICH)</u> * Columns 1,2; column 3, lines 1-24; figures 1-5 *	1,4-6, 9	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.)
	<u>FR - A - 1 461 824 (RIZZOLI EDITORE)</u> * Page 2, column 1, lines 48-57; column 2; page 3; page 4, column 1, column 2, lines 1-34; figures 1-7 *	4,7	G 02 B 27/02 G 03 B 21/64 A 63 H 33/22
D	<u>US - A - 2 934 999 (J.BAUMEL)</u> * Column 2, lines 30-71; columns 3,4; column 5, lines 1-42; figures 1-3 *	4,5	
	<u>FR - A - 1 262 757 (STEREOSTAR ITALIANA)</u> * Page 1, column 2; page 2, column 1; figures 1-4 *	4,10	CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS
			X: particularly relevant A: technological background C: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: conflicting application D: document cited in the application L: citation for other reason
			3: member of the same patent family, corresponding document



The present search report has been drawn up for all claims