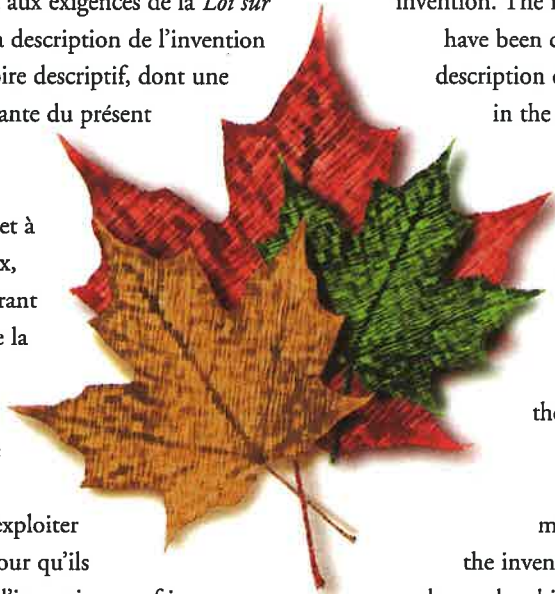




Brevet canadien / Canadian Patent

★ Le commissaire aux brevets a reçu une demande de délivrance de brevet visant une invention. Ladite requête satisfait aux exigences de la *Loi sur les brevets*. Le titre et la description de l'invention figurent dans le mémoire descriptif, dont une copie fait partie intégrante du présent document.

Le présent brevet confère à son titulaire et à ses représentants légaux, pour une période expirant vingt ans à compter de la date du dépôt de la demande au Canada, le droit, la faculté et le privilège exclusif de fabriquer, construire, exploiter et vendre à d'autres, pour qu'ils l'exploitent, l'objet de l'invention, sauf jugement en l'espèce rendu par un tribunal compétent, et sous réserve du paiement des taxes périodiques.



★ The Commissioner of Patents has received a petition for the grant of a patent for an invention. The requirements of the *Patent Act* have been complied with. The title and a description of the invention are contained in the specification, a copy of which forms an integral part of this document.

The present patent grants to its owner and to the legal representatives of its owner, for a term which expires twenty years from the filing date of the application in Canada, the exclusive right, privilege and liberty of making, constructing and using the invention and selling it to others to be used, subject to adjudication before any court of competent jurisdiction, and subject to the payment of maintenance fees.

B R E V E T C A N A D I E N

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Filing date of the application

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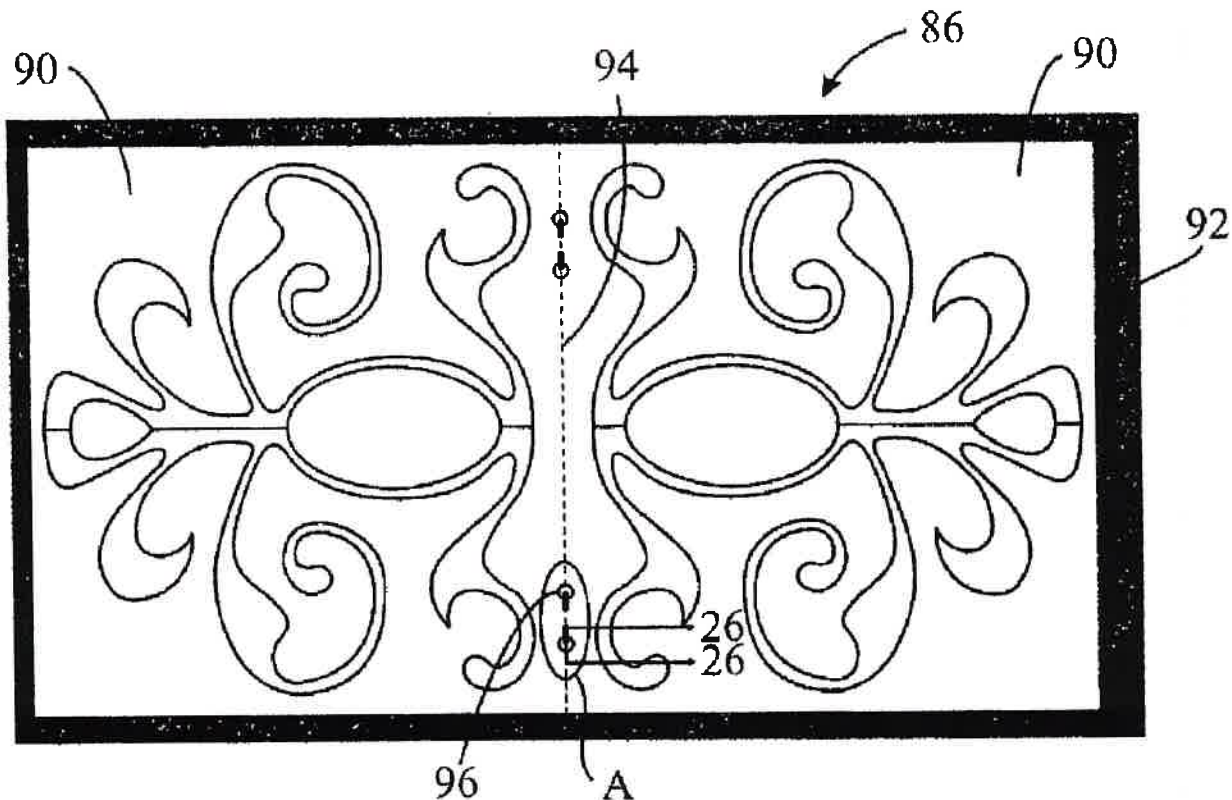
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(54) Titre : PROCÉDE DE MONTAGE DE REPRODUCTIONS D'OEUVRES D'ART IMPRIMEES SUR UN SUBSTRAT
 DEFORMABLE ET D'INTEGRATION D'UN SUBSTRAT DEFORMABLE IMPRIME DANS UNE PUBLICATION
 (54) Title: METHOD FOR MOUNTING ARTWORK REPRODUCTIONS PRINTED ON A DEFORMABLE SUBSTRATE
 AND FOR INCORPORATING A PRINTED DEFORMABLE SUBSTRATE IN A PUBLICATION



(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

A non-cellulose based deformable substrate is configured to be able to be directly mounted on a frame or included in a publication.



**TITLE: METHOD FOR MOUNTING ARTWORK REPRODUCTIONS
PRINTED ON A DEFORMABLE SUBSTRATE AND FOR INCORPORATING
A PRINTED DEFORMABLE SUBSTRATE IN A PUBLICATION**

5 FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[001] This invention relates to methods for using a deformable substrate such as polystyrene or poly vinyl chloride (PVC). In one aspect, this invention relates to a mounting system for artistic works, and in particular art reproductions, which are made on a deformable substrate, so as to enable the
10 artistic work to be displayed on a wall. In other embodiment, this invention relates to a method to incorporate a printed deformable substrate into a publication, such as a magazine or journal, and to a publication made by the method.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 **[002]** Over the past 20 years, considerable efforts have been made to create inexpensive reproductions of original artwork. See for example United States Patent Nos. 5,958,470 and 5,904,962.

[003] Such reproductions are often created on PVC substrates which resist tearing, but were harmful to the environment if the reproductions were
20 discarded to landfill either due to flaws created during the manufacturing process or due to the reproduction being disposed of by a consumer. The use of polystyrene or other environmentally friendly materials is complicated by the fact that polystyrene is relatively fragile and is subject to fracturing and tearing. Accordingly, while polystyrene is more environmentally friendly, it
25 poses additional problems during the manufacturing process.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[004] In accordance with the instant invention, improved methods and configurations are provided for utilizing deformable substrates.

30 **[005]** In accordance with one aspect of this invention, a reproduction of an original work of art is prepared on a substrate, which is preferably a thermoformable plastic. The corners or other sections of the reproduction that are cut out or notched to facilitate mounting of the artwork are configured to

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reduce the propagation of stress. Such stress may result in the creation or propagation of rips, tears or cracks in the thermoformable substrate. Preferably, a small round or oval hole may be provided if there is an angle over 5° formed when a substrate is notched or has a corner or other piece cut
5 out therefrom to permit the substrate to be attached to a frame or otherwise mounted thereby preventing or reducing the likelihood of tears or fractures occurring in the substrate.

[006] The reproduction may be two-dimensional. For example, an image may be provided on the front or image bearing face of the substrate,
10 such as by being printed thereon. Alternately, or in addition, the substrate is treated, such as by being subjected to pressure and/or vacuum forming, to create a three-dimensional representation or topography corresponding to, e.g., an original piece of art. This reproduction may optionally be adhered to a canvas substrate to further reproduce the appeal of the original art piece.

15 **[007]** For example, an art reproduction may be printed on a single sheet of polystyrene. The polystyrene may have the corners cut out so as to provide four flanges, which are subsequently bent around a frame assembly so as to thereby permit the art reproduction to be secured to a frame. In such a case, the corner formed between two adjacent flanges is preferably
20 configured as set out herein. Accordingly, when the flanges are bent to fit over the frame, the stress from the deformation of the plastic will not propagate past the corner and, in particular, will not propagate into the image-bearing portion of the substrate. It will be appreciated that when a thermoformable substrate is bent at room temperature, or in some cases at an
25 elevated temperature, that the substrate may tend to crack by the stress imposed when the substrate is deformed. This crack will tend to propagate along the line of stress (i.e. the axis along which the substrate is bent). By rounding such a corner, the propagation of the crack is blunted and prevents the crack from propagating along additional portions of the substrate. Also, in
30 some cases, the rounding of corners may also result in the substrate not cracking when it is bent so as to be attached to a frame.

[008] In accordance with another embodiment of the instant invention,

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a substrate may be included as a page in a publication. For example, a thermoformable plastic sheet may be printed and incorporated in a publication, such as a book or magazine. The publication may be bound by spot gluing, heat staking, stapling, sewing or otherwise mechanically affixing the pages together. If a staple or other mechanical member such as a post or ring is inserted through the substrate, then the passage of the staple through the substrate will provide a point of stress, which may result in a crack being formed that extends through the image-bearing portion of the substrate. Accordingly, if a substrate is to be incorporated as a page in a publication by being bound as a page in the publication, then the substrate is configured to receive the staple or other member that may pierce the substrate without the substrate being deformed or pierced. Preferably, holes are provided at a location where the staple or other binding will pass through the substrate. Preferably, the substrate is also thickened at the portion where the hole is provided.

[009] According to one aspect of the invention, there is provided a member comprising:

(a) a deformable self-supporting substrate having an image reproduced on a face thereof,

(b) the substrate having first and second portions, the two portions meeting at a first fold line, the first fold line having first and second opposed ends; and,

(c) at least one of the ends is configured to reduce propagation of stress along the first fold line.

[0010] In one embodiment each of the portions has an edge, the edges meet at one of the opposed ends, when the portions are folded along the first fold line a section of each edge adjacent the first fold line defines a point and the sections of each edge adjacent the first fold line are rounded in planes defined by the portions of the substrate.

[0011] In another embodiment the sections are radiused in the planes

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defined by the portions of the substrate.

[0012] In another embodiment the sections create a generally concave indent when viewed from the edges.

[0013] In another embodiment, when the portions are folded along the first fold line a section of each edge adjacent the first fold line defines a point, the substrate has a thickness, and the thickness is increased adjacent the point.

[0014] In another embodiment each of the portions has an edge and generally extends in a plane, the edges meet at a point at one of the opposed ends, and the substrate is configured to extend out of the planes adjacent the point. Preferably, a section of the substrate adjacent the point is curved out of the planes.

[0015] In another embodiment the first portion has an image provided thereon and the member is incorporated into a bound publication.

[0016] In another embodiment the image comprises an advertisement.

[0017] In another embodiment the bound publication has a plurality of pages and a spine, and the first fold line is positioned adjacent the spine. At least some of the pages may be secured together by an elongate member. Preferably, the elongate member passes through the substrate adjacent the first fold line. More preferably, the substrate is provided with an opening that the elongate member passes through. Preferably, the opening has a round perimeter. Alternately or in addition, the opening has a perimeter, the substrate has a thickness and the thickness of the substrate is increased adjacent the perimeter of the opening. Alternately or in addition, the opening has a perimeter, each of the portions generally extends in a plane, and the substrate is configured to extend out of the planes adjacent the perimeter of the opening. In another embodiment, a section of the substrate adjacent the perimeter of the opening is curved out of the planes.

[0018] In another embodiment the substrate is deformed by heat and/or pressure.

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[0019] In another embodiment the substrate is a thermoformable plastic.

[0020] In another embodiment the substrate is plastic or metal. Preferably, the plastic is polystyrene.

5 **[0021]** In another embodiment the first portion of the substrate has an image provided thereon and the second portion of the substrate defines a first flange and the flange is secured to a frame.

[0022] In another embodiment the member comprises artwork.

10 **[0023]** In another embodiment the substrate further comprises a third portion, the first and third portions meeting at a second fold line, the second fold line having first and second opposed ends, the one of the ends of the first fold line is positioned adjacent one of the ends of the second fold line to define a corner and the corner is configured to reduce propagation of stress along the fold line.

15 **[0024]** In another embodiment the substrate has a plurality of flanges for mounting the substrate to the frame and corners positioned between the flanges and at least some of the corners having a portion that is rounded.

[0025] In another embodiment all of the corners are rounded.

20 **[0026]** In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a publication comprising:

(a) a plurality of pages and a spine;

(b) a substrate comprised of metal and/or plastic;

25 (c) the substrate having first and second portions, the two portions meeting at a first fold line, the first fold line positioned adjacent the spine and having first and second opposed ends; and,

(d) at least one of the ends is configured to reduce propagation of stress along the first fold line.

[0027] In one embodiment at least some of the pages are secured

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together by an elongate member.

[0028] In another embodiment the elongate member passes through the substrate adjacent the first fold line.

[0029] In another embodiment the substrate is provided with an opening that the elongate member passes through.

[0030] In another embodiment the opening has a round perimeter.

[0031] In another embodiment the opening has a perimeter, the substrate has a thickness and the thickness of the substrate is increased adjacent the perimeter of the opening.

[0032] In another embodiment the substrate is comprised of plastic.

[0033] In another embodiment the substrate is provided with an image and the image comprises an advertisement.

[0034] In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a publication comprising:

(a) a plurality of pages and a spine;

(b) a substrate comprised of metal and/or plastic;

(c) the substrate having first and second portions, the two portions meeting at a first fold line, the first fold line is positioned adjacent the spine; and,

(d) an elongate member extending through at least some of the pages and at least one opening in the substrate, the opening is configured to reduce the propagation of stress along the first fold line.

[0035] In one embodiment the elongate member comprises a staple.

[0036] In another embodiment the elongate member passes through the substrate adjacent the first fold line.

[0037] In another embodiment the opening has a round perimeter.

[0038] In another embodiment the opening has a perimeter, the

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substrate has a thickness and the thickness of the substrate is increased adjacent the perimeter of the opening.

[0039] In another embodiment the substrate is provided with an image and the image comprises an advertisement.

5 **[0040]** In another embodiment the substrate is comprised of plastic.

[0041] In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, there is provided an art reproduction comprising:

(a) a sheet of deformable self-supporting substrate having an image reproduced on at least a front face of a first portion thereof,

10 (b) the substrate having flanges for mounting to a frame and corners positioned between the flanges, the flanges and the first portion abutting at fold lines; and,

(c) a first corner is configured to reduce propagation of stress along a fold line adjacent the first corner.

15 **[0042]** In one embodiment all of the corners are configured to reduce propagation of stress along a fold lines adjacent the corners.

[0043] In another embodiment the corner has a portion that is rounded.

[0044] In another embodiment the substrate has a thickness and the thickness is increased adjacent the first corner.

20 **[0045]** In another embodiment each of the flanges adjacent the first corner and the first portion generally define a plane and, adjacent the first corner, the substrate is configured to extend in a direction outwardly from each of the planes.

[0046] In another embodiment a section of the substrate adjacent the
25 first corner is curved outwardly from the planes.

[0047] In another embodiment the substrate is comprised of plastic.

[0048] In another embodiment the image comprises an advertisement.

[0049] In another embodiment, the art reproduction further comprises

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at least one mount configured to receive a light emitting member, wherein a plurality of light emitting members having different lighting properties are interchangeably receivable in the mount

[0050] In another embodiment, the mount is moveably mounted to the frame between an in use position spaced from the art reproduction and the frame and a shipping position wherein the mount is positioned adjacent the art reproduction and the frame.

[0051] In another embodiment, the art reproduction further comprises at least one light emitting member, a member to monitor the time and a controller to adjust the intensity of the light emitting member, color of the light emitting member and/or to actuate the light emitting member based on time of day.

[0052] In another embodiment, the controller is programmable by a user whereby the user can adjust the time of day when the controller adjusts the light-emitting member or actuates the light-emitting member.

[0053] In another embodiment, the art reproduction further comprises at least one light-emitting member, a member to monitor the intensity of the light in a room where the art reproduction is positioned and a controller to adjust the intensity and/or color of the light-emitting member based on intensity of the light in the room.

[0054] In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of binding a publication having a spine comprising:

(a) providing a plurality of pages;

(b) providing a substrate comprised of metal and/or plastic, the substrate having first and second portions, the two portions meeting at a first fold line, the first fold line positioned adjacent the spine and having first and second opposed ends;

(c) configuring at least one of the ends to reduce propagation of stress along the first fold line; and,

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(d) securing the plurality of pages and the substrate together.

[0055] In one embodiment, step (c) comprises rounding the at least one of the ends.

[0056] In another embodiment, step (c) comprises providing a thicker
5 substrate adjacent the end.

[0057] In another embodiment, step (c) wherein the first and second portions each generally define a plane and the method further comprises configuring the substrate to extend in a direction outwardly from each of the planes.

10 **[0058]** In another embodiment, the method further comprises treating the substrate to form a 3-D image therein.

[0059] In another embodiment, the publication comprises a magazine and the method further comprises treating the substrate to form a 3-D advertisement therein.

15 **[0060]** In another embodiment, step (d) comprises passing and elongate member through the plurality of pages and the substrate.

[0061] In another embodiment, the elongate member passes through the substrate adjacent the first fold line and the method further comprises providing the substrate with a preformed opening that the elongate member
20 passes through.

[0062] In another embodiment, the method further comprises configuring the opening to reduce propagation of stress along the first fold line.

[0063] In another embodiment, the elongate member passes through
25 the substrate adjacent the first fold line and the method further comprises providing the substrate with an opening that is configured to reduce propagation of stress along the first fold line.

[0064] In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of binding a publication having a spine comprising:

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- (a) providing a plurality of pages;
- (b) providing a substrate comprised of metal and/or plastic;
- (c) providing the substrate with an opening for passage therethrough of an elongate member; and,

- 5 (d) securing the plurality of pages and the substrate together by passing the elongate member through the opening.

[0065] In one embodiment, the opening has a perimeter the method further comprises configuring the opening to reduce propagation of stress through the substrate adjacent the perimeter.

- 10 **[0066]** In another embodiment, the opening has a perimeter and the method further comprises rounding the perimeter.

[0067] In another embodiment, the opening has a perimeter and the method further comprises providing a thicker substrate adjacent the perimeter.

- 15 **[0068]** In another embodiment, the substrate defines at least one plane and the method further comprises configuring the substrate to extend in a direction outwardly from at least one of the planes.

[0069] In another embodiment, the method further comprises treating the substrate to form a 3-D image therein.

- 20 **[0070]** In another embodiment, the publication comprises a magazine and the method further comprises treating the substrate to form a 3-D advertisement therein.

[0071] In another embodiment, the method further comprises forming the opening prior to passing the elongate member through the substrate.

- 25 **[0072]** In another embodiment, the method further comprises forming the opening as the elongate member is passed through the substrate.

[0073] In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of framing art comprising:

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(a) providing a sheet of deformable self-supporting substrate having an image reproduced on at least a front face of a first portion thereof,

(b) providing flanges for mounting the sheet to a frame, the flanges and the first portion abutting at fold lines; and,

5 (c) providing corners positioned between the flanges and configuring at least a first corner to reduce propagation of stress along a fold line adjacent the first corner.

[0074] In one embodiment, the method further comprises configuring all of the corners to reduce propagation of stress along a fold lines adjacent the
10 corners.

[0075] In another embodiment, wherein step (c) comprises rounding the first corner.

[0076] In another embodiment, the substrate has a thickness and the method further comprises providing an increased adjacent the first corner.

15 **[0077]** In another embodiment, each of the flanges adjacent the first corner and the first portion generally define a plane and the method further comprises configuring the substrate adjacent the first corner to extend in a direction outwardly from each of the planes.

[0078] In another embodiment, a section of the substrate adjacent the
20 first corner is curved outwardly from the planes.

[0079] In another embodiment, the method further comprises selecting a plastic as the substrate.

[0080] In another embodiment, the image is 3-D and the method further comprises forming a 3-D image in the substrate.

25 **[0081]** In another embodiment, the method further comprises providing at least one mount that is configured to receive a light emitting member, wherein a plurality of light emitting members having different lighting properties are interchangeably receivable in the mount and selecting a light emitting member to enhance illumination of the image.

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[0082] In another embodiment, the mount is moveably mounted to the frame between an in use position spaced from the substrate and the frame and a shipping position wherein the mount is positioned adjacent the substrate and the frame and the method further comprises position the mount
5 in the shipping position and packaging the art for shipment.

[0083] In another embodiment, the method further comprises providing at least one light emitting member, monitoring the time and adjusting the intensity of the light emitting member, color of the light emitting member and/or actuating the light emitting member based on time of day

10 **[0084]** In another embodiment, the method further comprises setting a program is to adjust the time of day when the light-emitting member is adjusted or actuated.

[0085] In another embodiment, the method further comprises monitoring the intensity of light in a room where the art is positioned and
15 adjusting the intensity and/or color of the light-emitting member based on the intensity of the light in the room.

[0086] One advantage of this invention is that printed thermoplastic substrates maybe incorporated into publications with less concern of the substrate being damaged during the binding process or when the publication
20 is read.

[0087] Another advantage of this invention is that thermoformable substrates and, in particular, polystyrene substrates, may be affixed directly to a frame with less likelihood of the substrate being damaged during the framing process.

25

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0088] These and other advantages of the instant invention will be more fully and completely understood in association with the following description of the preferred embodiments of the invention in which:

30 **[0089]** Figure 1 is a top plan view of an art reproduction without corners

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notched;

[0090] Figure 2 is a top plan view of the art reproduction of Figure 1 wherein the corners are notched;

[0091] Figure 3 is a top plan view of the art reproduction of Figure 2,
5 wherein the corners are notched and wherein the corners are radiused according to a first embodiment of one aspect of the instant invention;

[0092] Figure 3a is an enlargement of area A of Figure 3;

[0093] Figure 4 is a perspective view of the artwork reproduction of Figure 3 being mounted to a stretcher frame;

10 **[0094]** Figure 5 is a perspective view of the artwork reproduction of Figure 3 wherein the reproduction has been placed on the stretcher frame and showing two opposed flanges of the substrate being folded downwardly to abut the stretcher frame;

[0095] Figure 6 is a top plan view of Figure 5 wherein two flanges have
15 been folded down wherein the flanges are in the process of being stapled to the frame;

[0096] Figure 7 is a perspective view of the assembly of Figure 6 wherein the staples have been inserted in opposed sides of the frame;

[0097] Figure 8 is a top plan view of the assembly of Figure 6 wherein
20 the other two opposed flanges of the art work reproduction have been folded down and wherein staples are being inserted into the remaining two sides;

[0098] Figure 9 is a perspective view of the assembly of Figure 8 wherein all flanges have been folded down and stapled;

[0099] Figure 9a is an enlargement of area A of Figure 9;

25 **[00100]** Figure 9b is a cross section along line 9-9 in Figure 9;

[00101] Figures 10 – 19 show a similar series of steps for framing an art reproduction wherein the corners of the flanges of the art reproduction are notched in an alternate manner and are configured according to a second embodiment of one aspect of the instant invention;

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- [00102] Figure 20 is a perspective view of a publication in accordance with another aspect of this invention wherein the publication has four pages composed of a printed substrate;
- [00103] Figure 21 is an end view of the publication of Figure 20;
- 5 [00104] Figure 22 is an enlargement of area A shown in Figure 21;
- [00105] Figure 23 is a perspective view of the publication of Figure 20 opened to one of the pages having the printed substrate;
- [00106] Figure 24 is a top plan view of Figure 23;
- [00107] Figure 25 is an enlarged view of area A of Figure 24;
- 10 [00108] Figure 26 is a cross section along the line 26 – 26 shown in Figure 24.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

- [00109] In accordance with one aspect of this invention, a substrate is
15 configured for mounting to a frame and, preferably a stretcher frame. In accordance with this aspect of the invention, the frame may be any frame known in the framing or advertising arts wherein the substrate that bears an image is bent, folded, deformed and/or pierced so as to secure the substrate to the frame.
- 20 [00110] As exemplified in Figures 1 – 19, the frame is a stretcher frame that is rectangular. Accordingly, the corners of the substrate are cut out or otherwise notched to define four flanges, one for each side of the frame. The flanges are then secured to the sidewalls of the stretcher frame. It will be appreciated that if the stretcher frame is oval, circular or of some other shape,
25 that the substrate may be similarly treated to prevent, or reduce the likelihood of, cracks, tears, rips or the like propagating across the printed surface of the substrate.
- [00111] It will be appreciated that a variety of styles for framing or
30 presenting art reproductions may be utilized. Usually the art reproductions are framed in some manner to enhance the character of the reproduction. In

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Figures 1-9 and 10-19, two alternate methods for mounting an art reproduction to a stretcher frame are provided, although other combinations are possible employing the technique of the instant invention.

5 [00112] As shown in Figure 1, art reproduction 10 has an image bearing portion 12 and a perimeter 14. Preferably, no image or topography is formed in perimeter 14.

10 [00113] As shown in Figure 2, corners 16, 18, 20 and 22 are removed from perimeter 14 leaving flanges 24, 26, 28 and 30. Flanges 24, 26, 28 and 30 may be of any particular size that are suitable for securing art reproduction 10 to a frame. Flanges 24, 26, 28 and 30 may be folded along fold line 32, which defines the interface of image bearing portion 12 and the flanges. In order to assist flanges 24, 26, 28 and 30 to be folded, fold line 32 may be perforated or otherwise scored or configured to facilitate the flanges being bent so as to be secured to a frame. It will also be appreciated that the
15 flanges may be bent while the rigidity of the plastic has been temporarily weakened, such as by heating the plastic and/or by applying a solvent, such as methyl ethyl ketone to the flanges.

20 [00114] In accordance with this aspect of the instant invention, at least one, and preferably at least a plurality of and, most preferably, each corner is provided with a corner notch detail 34 which is configured to reduce propagation of stress along fold line 32. For example, each corner may be radiused or have a hole provided therein. Preferably, the hole is circular or oval. The substrate is preferably so configured when be provided if there is an angle over 5° between adjacent sides of the substrate.

25 [00115] Figure 3a shows an enlargement of corner detail A of Figure 3. Flange 24 has a side 36 and flange 26 has a side 38. Sides 36 and 38 meet at point 40. If corner 18 is removed as shown in Figure 2, then corner 40 defined by adjacent sides 36 and 38 will comprise essentially a right angle. As shown in Figure 3, in accordance with one embodiment of this instant
30 invention, point 40 is configured to reduce the propagation of stress along fold line 32. Accordingly, for example, as shown in Figure 3a, a small round hole or oval is provided at point 40. This is a stress relief cut which serves to

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prevent or reduce the likelihood of tearing or fracturing of the substrate by distributing the load imposed by the subsequent folding and bending of flanges 24 and 26 during the mounting process. While not shown in Figure 3a, preferably each corner is so treated. It will be appreciated that instead of providing a small hole at point 40, that point 40 may merely be radiused or curved.

[00116] As shown in Figure 4, treated art reproduction 10 is prepared for mounting on stretcher frame 42. Stretcher frame 42 is provided with a side member for each flange of art reproduction 10. Accordingly, as shown in Figure 4, stretcher frame 42 has side members 44, 46, 48 and 50. Each side member has a top surface 52, which abuts against the underside of image bearing portion 12, and a side surface 54 against which each flange may be folded.

[00117] As shown in Figure 5, image-bearing surface has been placed on top of stretcher frame 42 and flanges 24 and 28 are folded downward to abut against side surfaces 54 thereby being placed in the configuration shown in Figures 6 and 7. Flanges 24 and 28 may then be secured to side members 44 and 48 by any means known in the art, such as staples 56 and/or an adhesive. As shown in Figure 7, the remaining two opposed flanges 26, 30 are folded down against the respective side members 46, 50 to provide the configuration shown in Figure 8. Accordingly, flanges 26 and 30 are bent along fold lines 30 and then secured to side members 46, 50 by staples 56 and/or an adhesive or any other means known in the framing art.

[00118] In Figure 9, art reproduction 10 has been secured to the stretcher frame. As shown in Figure 9a, corner notch detail 34 is provided adjacent to corner of the stretcher frame and along fold lines 32. As shown in Figure 9b, image-bearing portion 12 sits over the open area of stretcher frame 42 with flanges 24, 28 secured respectively to side members 44, 48.

[00119] Figures 10 – 19 exemplify an alternate framing method according to the same aspect of the invention as exemplified by Figures 1-9, but using an alternate production pattern for the corners of an art reproduction. Similar numbers have been used for similar elements.

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[00120] As shown in Figure 11, the corners of perimeter 14 are notched so as to provide tabs 58, 60, 62 and 64. As shown in more detail on Figures 12 and 12a, the production of tab 58 results in the production of two points 66, 68 which define corners or sharp intersections of edges of the substrate from which the reproduction is made. Each tab results in the production of two such points. Accordingly, in total, the notching of the substrate as shown in Figure 12 results in the production of points 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78 and 80. In addition, as shown in Figure 12, inner and outer fold lines 82, 84 are provided in each flange 24, 26, 28 and 30. This permits each flange to be folded adjacent each side surface 54 of stretcher frame 42, as well as the bottom surface of each side member of the stretcher frame (see for example Figures 15, 17 and 19b). Accordingly, in accordance with this embodiment, the substrate is secured to both the side surfaces and bottom surfaces of the side members of the stretcher frame. In accordance with the instant invention, at least one and preferably all of the points 66, 72, 74, 80 along the inner fold line and, preferably, all of the points along the inner and outer fold lines 82, 84, and points 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78 and 80 are radiused or provided with round or oval stress relief cuts to prevent or reduce the tearing or fracturing of the substrate.

[00121] Once the substrate has been placed on stretcher frame 42 (see Figures 13 and 14), opposed edges 26, 30 may be folded along inner fold line 82 such that flanges 26, 30 lay adjacent the respective side members. Subsequently, flanges 26, 30 may be folded along outer fold lines 84 such that the flanges abut against the rear surface of back face of stretcher frame 42. The flanges may be then secured to the rear surface of the side members by staples 56 and/or by an adhesive or by any other method known in the framing art. Subsequently, as shown in Figure 16, tabs 58, 60, 62, and 64 may be folded inwardly to the position shown in Figure 17 at which time flanges 24, 28 may be folded downwardly, as shown in Figure 17a and then inwardly, as shown in Figure 18 such that side flanges 24, 28 abut against the rear surface of their respective side members of stretcher frame 42. These flanges may then be secured to the lower surface of stretcher frame 42 by