



New Exhibit Frames

WSS-NY 2016 to Use New, Lighter Exhibit Frames

Attendees to StampShow in Grand Rapids in August were among the first collectors to see the prototype of the exhibit frames to debut at World Stamp Show-NY 2016. Approximately 2,000 double-sided frames are being produced for the exhibition and will be available for sale afterwards.

Vince King, a gold-medal winning exhibitor, president of the Texas Postal History Society, and member of the National Postal Museum Council of Philatelists, accepted the challenge by WSS-NY 2016 president Wade Saadi to design and manufacture them. King is an engineer by profession and the owner of Entech Design Inc., with operations in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

The typical exhibit frames found at U.S. shows were designed around 1985 for use first at Chicago's Ameripex international show in 1986. They are called "A-frames" based on their shape looking at them from the side, composed of a double-sided 4-foot high by 3-foot wide top-hinged panel on legs. These differ from international style frames used elsewhere that have basically the same sized panel back-to-back on legs that angle 90 degrees to one another in a zig-zag pattern.

Starting from scratch, King and his design team investigated several different designs, but eventually found that the A-frame was still the best solution. Design then focused on materials making up the frames themselves.

The major disadvantage of frames used now is their overall weight. Each double-sided unit weighs around 45 pounds. Reducing this was a top priority, while maintaining their structural sturdiness and ensuring the security of their valuable contents.

Current A-frames are constructed of an aluminum frame with an inside backer of Masonite faced with cardboard and white poster board with clear plastic strips to hold the pages. The frame's viewing window consists of clear 1/8-inch acrylic. The legs also are aluminum. Other concerns mentioned by users include their difficulty of assembly and lack of portability.

An alternative base material needed to be found — and was — by using polystyrene, a polymer plastic. A dye could be added to make it any desired color, in this case a silver gray to mimic aluminum. When heated to more than 212 degrees F (100 degrees C), the clear, glass-like material liquefies and can easily be fabricated into almost any shape. It turns rigid when cooled and is very strong but lightweight. Parts can easily be bonded permanently using an acrylic super glue. A flexible plastic hinge allows the two sides to join at the top.

As for the inner part, a white polystyrene panel replaces the heavy Masonite. Clear acrylic is again used as the face sheets, but at half the thickness as before. Specially designed security screws on the face of each panel allow for easy access to the inside panel to load and unload exhibit pages. Anodized aluminum poles would again be used as legs.

The resulting A-frame unit weighs around 24 pounds, about half of their current counterparts. That's a savings of an estimated 40,000 pounds (20 tons) for the entire 2,000 currently under production. They are being stored, palletized, and shipped at two frame units per box with the legs boxed separately.

Interested in one or maybe a couple hundred? WSS-NY 2016 executive assistant Christine Jimenez welcomes inquiries of any quantity by e-mail at christine.jimenez@ny2016.org or by phone toll-free 844-WSS-2016 (844-977-2016) extension 3.



May 28–June 4, 2016
New York City
www.ny2016.org

Show opens in
6
months



One of the prototype exhibit frames to debut at World Stamp Show-NY 2016 that was on display in August at the APS StampShow in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

WSS-NY 2016
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