

Two New Types of Boards for Extension Education and Training Activities

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Designs and uses of two simple and non-expensive boards for extension education and training programmes have been described. The first one is a 'Chart Frame' akin to photoframe with three components viz., a board holder, a chart holder to paste the prepared subject matter and a wooden support or stand. The second one, a painted hard-board is a unitary type comprising simply a self designed painted board displaying the subject matter. These two boards are found to be effective as audio visual aids besides their durability, easy portability and maintenance.

Audio-visual aids play an important role in communication, formal and non-formal education. In the Farmers' Training Centres, and other training institutions, flannel boards, flash cards and charts are commonly used in the training programmes. With a view to design an effective, simple, durable and easily portable boards, two types of boards were fabricated at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pondicherry, for using in the various training programmes being conducted for the benefit of the practising farmers, farm youths, etc. The details are presented in this paper.

Chart Frame : The first type of the board consists of 5 cm thick wooden frames which are commonly used for framing large size photos, pictures or portraits (Fig. 1) The size of the frame was designed in such a way that already prepared card board charts can be correctly exhibited by fixing the chart on to a hard board of same size as that of frame with the help of adhes-

ive tapes or drawing pins. The standard size of paper boards or card boards is 72 cm x 56.5 cm and are available in different colours. The subject matter can be written with either water colours or paints. The chart fixed on to the hard board can be placed within the groove at the backside of the framework and can be held firmly by swivelling metal tongues nailed or screwed at the backside of the framework at the rate of minimum one number on each side of the frame work. A wooden reaper of size 7.5 cm x 1 cm x 76 cm can be hinged to the back so as to function as a stand for the chart frame. Normally the charts are fixed to the standing boards or placed in front of any other supports. The hinged wooden stand will facilitate the chart frame to be placed at any place and at convenient angles even away from the walls or any other supports.

The advantages of these chart frames are :

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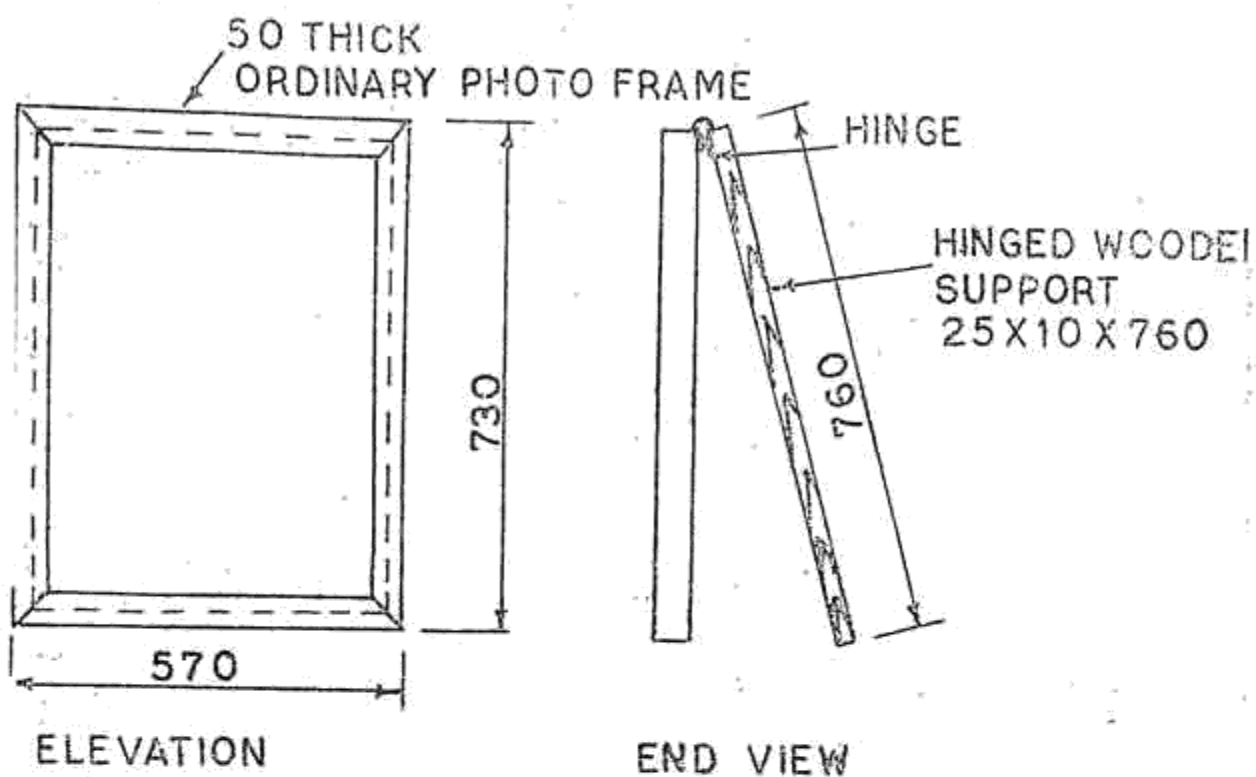


FIG.1. DETAILS OF CHART FRAME

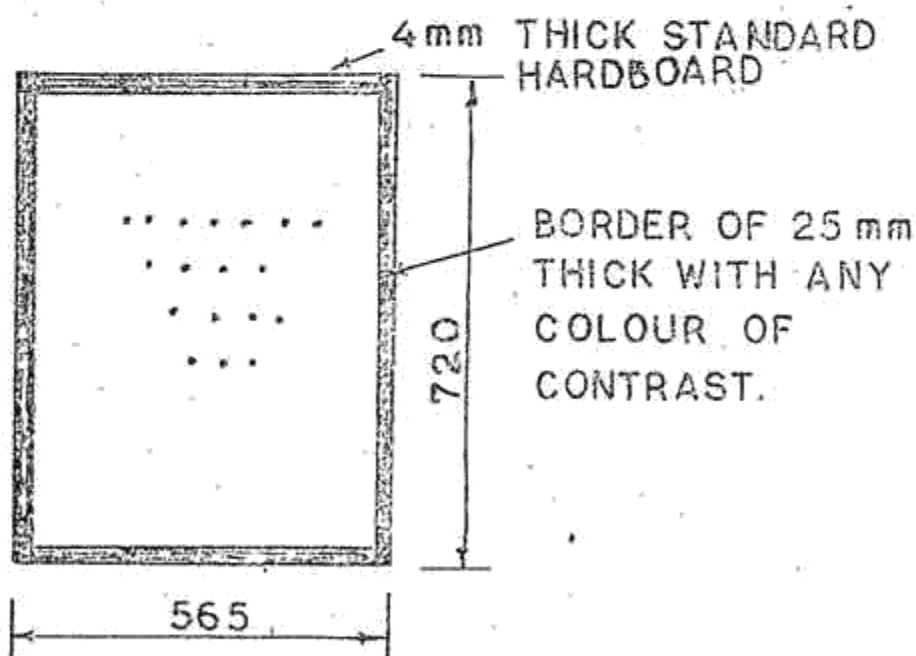


FIG.2. DETAILS OF PAINTED HARDBOARD.

(All dimensions are in mm)

(1) with only a few frames, a number of selected charts can be displayed according to the training needs by suitably replacing the charts.

(2) matching or contrasting colour effects can be achieved owing to the thickness and colour of frame which will also function as border of the chart.

(3) it can be also displayed at any place with the help of the hinged wooden stand without the usual support of wall, standing boards, etc.,

(4) the chart frames can be stacked in a pile and transported, and,

(5) it is easily portable.

The components of the chart frame are : (1) 5 cm thick wooden frame work suitable for 72 cm x 56.5 cm chart, (2) 7.5 cm x 1 cm x 76 cm size wooden reaper, 5 cm hinge with screws and mild steel swivelling tongues with screws, (3) colour card board or paper board of 72 cm x 56.5 cm size, and (4) a plain hard board of 72 cm x 56.5 cm size.

Altogether the chart frame (item 1 & 2) will cost about Rs. 20/-

Painted Hard Board :

In the second type of the device, the hard board of standard quality (4 mm thickness) is utilised. The procedure involves (i) choosing or cutting the board to the required size usually of about 72 cm x 56.5 cm as that of

the standard size of colour card boards locally available, (ii) painting with required base or background colour i.e. with a first coat of glue and chalk powder mix and the required background colour in the second coat, (iii) writing or drawing the charts/matters with contrasting combinations of one or two colours (colours selected for items (ii) and (iii) may be as per the taste and decisions of the Institutions concerned). It was found effective and attractive to have orange colour as background and white or yellow or any other light colours for letters and black or light blue for columns, lines and graphs, and, (iv) painting a border of about 1 to 2 cm thick with one of the dark colours to have the effect of the chart as if though being framed. This will also help the trainees to distinguish one chart from the other.

The self-designed painted hard-boards are quite handy, effective, simple and attractive, besides light in weight, easy to transport, stack and handle and occupy less space when stored. It can be reused or recycled or rewritten. The chart can be wiped with soap water or even washed to achieve brightness and cleanliness.

The cost of 72 cm x 56.5 cm size hard board is about Rs. 4.50 and the writing charges including painting with base colour is Rs. 13.50 @ Rs. 3.00 per square foot. Hence the total cost works out to Rs. 18/- for preparing an ordinary chart of size 72cm x 56.5

cm. The hard boards of 180cm x 120 cm (8' x 4') sizes are commonly available in the market and the cost is about Rs. 25/- each. Out of this six charts of size 80 cm x 60 cm each can be prepared without any wastage of boards. The writing charges including the cost of paint and labour for these six boards is Rs. 96/-. Hence the total cost of 6 boards will be Rs. 121/- and hence Rs. 20.20 each. Depending

upon the requirement of size for preparing the chart any one of the above two will be of great utility.

The two types of aids viz., chart frame and painted hard board, are found to be very effective in the training programmes and in communicating the technical information and also for efficient display during exhibitions.