

B. SCHENK.
CURTAIN STRETCHER.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 10, 1909.

Patented Oct. 22, 1912.

3 SHEETS-SHEET 1.

1,042,284.

Fig. 1.

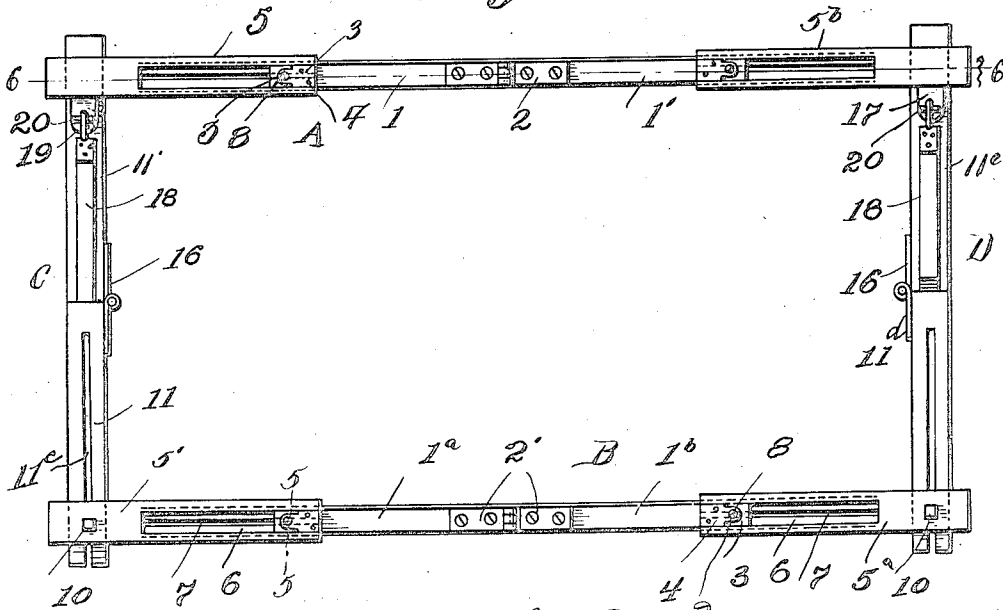
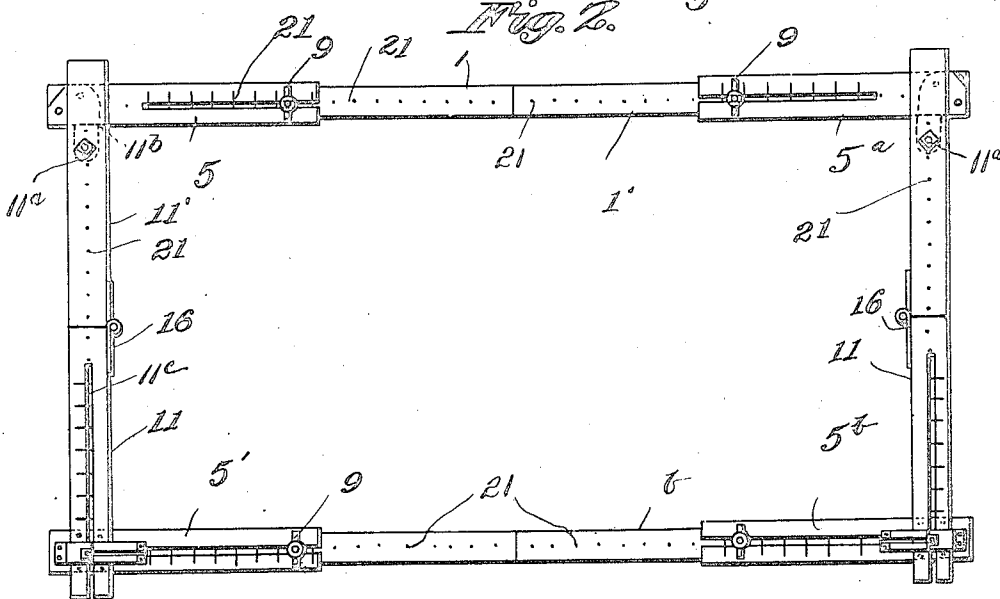


Fig. 2.



Inventor

Bertha Schenk,

Witnesses

Charles H. Hanson
P. R. Bunge

By Victor J. Evans

Attorney

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Fig. 3.

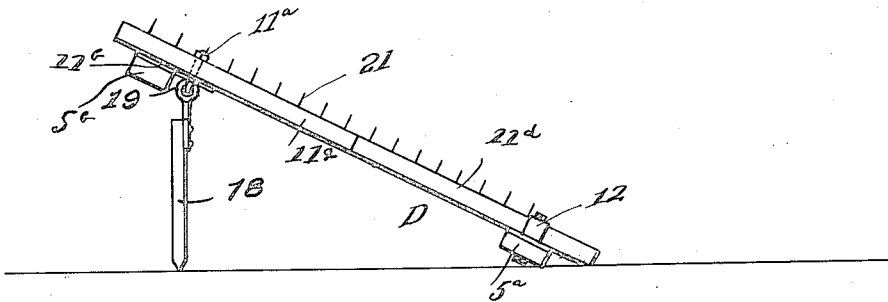


Fig. 4.

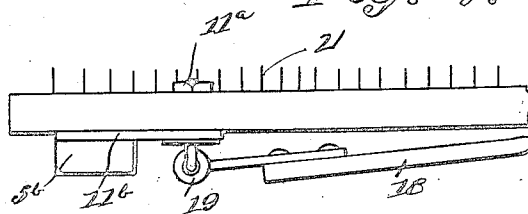
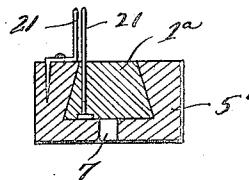


Fig. 5.



Witnesses

Charles Richardson.

J. R. Bunge.

Inventor
Bertha Schenk,

By *Vieta J. Evans*

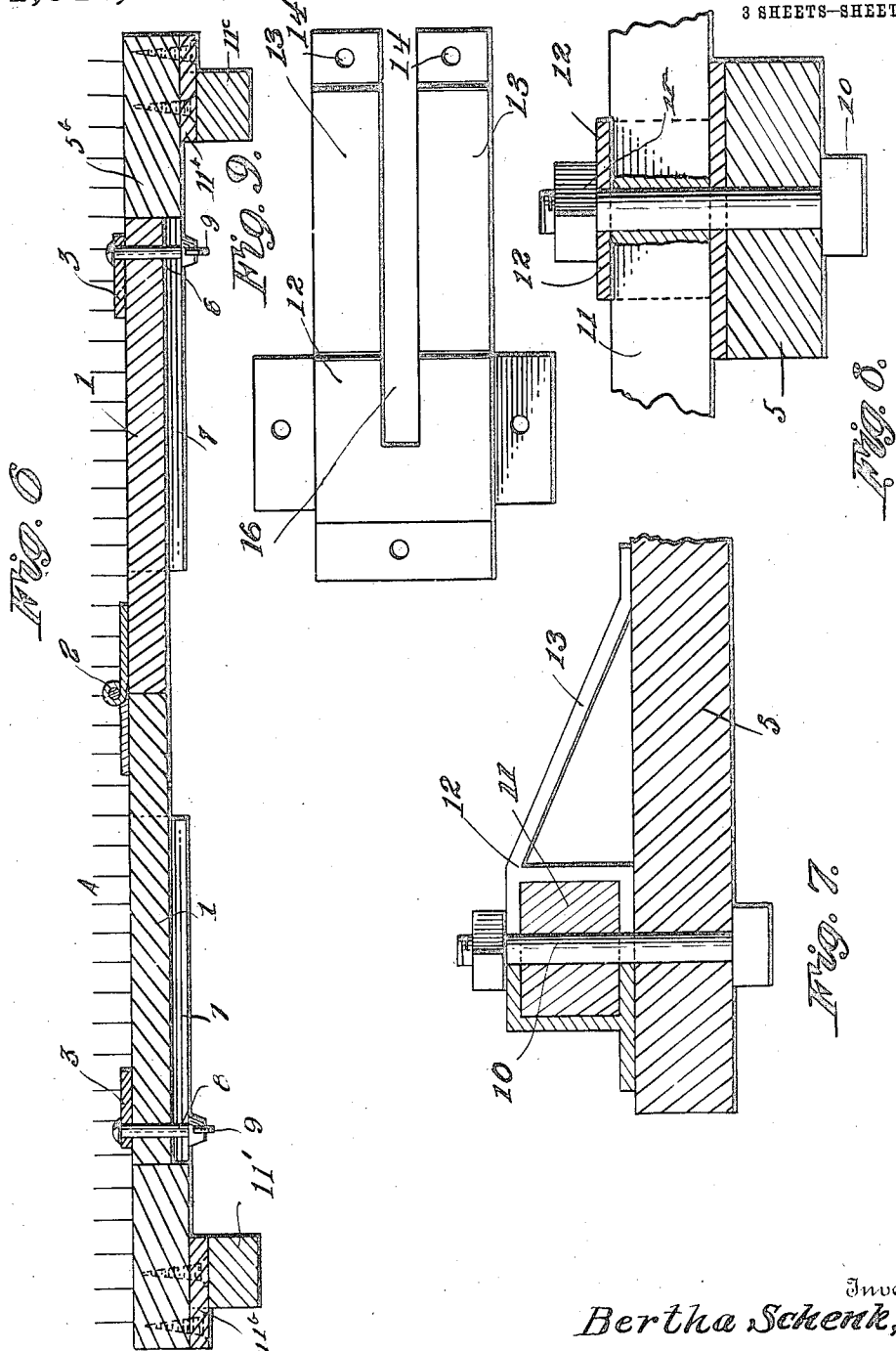
Attorney

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3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

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Witnesses

Charles Anderson
E. P. Bump

Inventor
Bertha Schenk,

By *Victor J. Evans*
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BERTHA SCHENK, OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA.

CURTAIN-STRETCHER.

1,042,284.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 22, 1912.

Application filed November 10, 1909. Serial No. 527,243.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BERTHA SCHENK, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Pittsburgh, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented new and useful Improvements in Curtain-Stretchers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to curtain stretchers, and one of the principal objects of the same is to provide a curtain stretcher of simple construction which can be readily folded into a small space for storage or shipping, and which can be quickly extended and set up for use.

Another object of the invention is to provide a curtain stretcher having hinged props for holding the frame at an inclination to quickly dry the curtain stretched thereon.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a stretcher frame having hinges at the sides and ends and guides in which the side members are mounted to permit quick adjustment of the frame to the length of curtain desired to be stretched, the end members being hinged to fold inwardly while the side members fold together.

These and other objects may be attained by means of the construction illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which,—

Figure 1 is a plan view of the underside of a curtain stretcher made in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the same. Fig. 3 is an end elevation showing the stretcher set up and supported by props for drying the curtain. Fig. 4 is a view of the folded stretcher showing the props thrown up next to the stretcher frame. Fig. 5 is a detail sectional view taken through one of the side rails of the stretcher on line 5—5 of Fig. 1. Fig. 6 is a longitudinal sectional view taken through one of the side rails of the stretcher on line 6—6 of Fig. 1. Fig. 7 is a detail sectional view showing one of the corner braces. Fig. 8 is a sectional view taken at right angles to Fig. 7. Fig. 9 is a plan view of the guide member.

My improved curtain stretcher comprises side bars A and B. The side bar A is preferably formed of the sections 1 and 1' which are hingedly connected with each other at their inner ends, as at 2, the said hinge being located on the underside of the stretcher-frame, as shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings.

The side bar B comprises the sections 1^a and 1^b. These sections are identical in construction with the sections 1 and 1' just described, and as illustrated, they are connected with each other at their inner ends by a hinge 2'. The sections of the side bars A and B are of dovetail construction, cross sectionally, for a purpose to be hereinafter explained.

End bars C and D are provided, being identically constructed, and as shown, the bar C is formed of sections 11 and 11'. The section 11' is pivoted by an eye-bolt 11^a to a plate 11^b which is secured to a guide member 5. This guide member is formed to provide a longitudinally extending dovetailed groove in which one end of the section 1 of the side bar A is slidably fitted. The dovetailed groove opens onto one side of the guide member 5 and on the opposite side of the guide member is formed a longitudinal slot 7. This slot and the guide groove open onto one end of the member 5 so as to permit the section 1 to be removed from the guide member as will be hereinafter explained. At one side the section 1 is provided with a washer-plate 3 and extending through the plate and through the section 1 and the slot 7 is a clamping bolt 8 which is provided at one side with a clamping nut 9 which is designed to be clamped against the guide member so as to hold the same and the section 1 against relative movements. The section 1^a of the side bar B is fitted in the dovetailed groove in the guide member 5'. A guide bracket 12 provided with slotted feet 13 is secured to the guide members 5' through which the outer end of the section 11 is slidable at right angles to the section 1^a of the said side bar B. A clamping bolt 10 extends through the section 1^a and through the longitudinal slot 11^c in the section 11 of the end member C. The bolt 10 is provided at one side with a suitable clamping nut which may be adjusted to bear against the guide bracket so as to hold the section 11 in its adjusted position therein.

The end bar D is constructed in a manner identical with the end bar C and the sections 11^c and 11^d thereof are hingedly connected with each other, as at 16, and they are connected with the guide members 5^a and 5^b in a manner identical with the connection described between the sections 11 and 11' and the guide members 5 and 5', the said

members 5^a and 5^b being slidably fitted upon the sections 1' and 1^b of the side bars A and B.

From this construction it will be readily understood that the end bars C and D may be adjusted toward or away from each other, likewise the bars A and B, so that the frame can be made to accommodate itself to curtains of different sizes. The hinges 16 which connect the sections of the end bars with each other are located on the inner sides of these bars, as shown. When it is desired to fold the frame for storage or for like purposes the side bar A is removed from the guide members 5 and 5^b. After this operation the sections 1 and 1' of the bar A are folded on each other. The sections 1^a and 1^b of the companion bar B are correspondingly folded on each other. The end bars C and D can then be independently folded. As an illustration, and with reference to the end bar C, it may be described that the sections 11 and 11' thereof may be folded against each other, after which, the section 11' can be moved on the eye-bolt 11^a so that the sections 11 and 11' and the guide member 5 are superimposed. It will of course be understood that the end bar D and the guide member 5^b are correspondingly folded. When the parts are all folded, as described, they assume a very small and compact package and will take up very small space in storage or shipment.

The eye-bolts 11^a are pivotally connected, as at 19, with props 18. On reference to Fig. 3 of the drawings, it will be seen that these props are arranged vertically so as to hold the stretching frame at an angle to the surface on which it is supported. This arrangement provides for a perfect exposure of the curtain to the wind and the sun.

The guide members hereinbefore described and the sections of the side and end bars

are provided with suitable pins 21 with which the curtain to be stretched can be engaged.

I claim:—

1. A curtain stretcher comprising sectional side bars hingedly connected together, and sectional end bars hingedly connected together, each of the sections of the said side bars having their outer ends of a dovetailed construction, guide members slidably fitted on the said dovetail portions and connecting the said end bars and side bars with each other, the said guide members being formed to provide a longitudinally extending dovetail groove which open onto one side of the member and adapted to slidably receive the said dovetail portions, the opposite side of the said members being formed to provide longitudinally extending slots communicating with the said dovetail grooves, and means extended through the sections and through the slots to retain the said sections against movement in the said guide members.

2. A curtain stretcher comprising foldable side bars and foldable end bars, guide members slidably mounted on the outer ends of the said side bars and connecting the end bars and side bars with each other, a second guide member mounted on the outer end and at one side of the first mentioned member and adapted to slidably receive the said end bars, and retaining elements extending through the bars and through both the said guide members substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

BERTHA SCHENK.

Witnesses:

A. F. HOFFMAN,
S. LEO RUSLANDER.