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VALANCE CLIP AND METHOD OF POSITIONING VALANCE BOARDS

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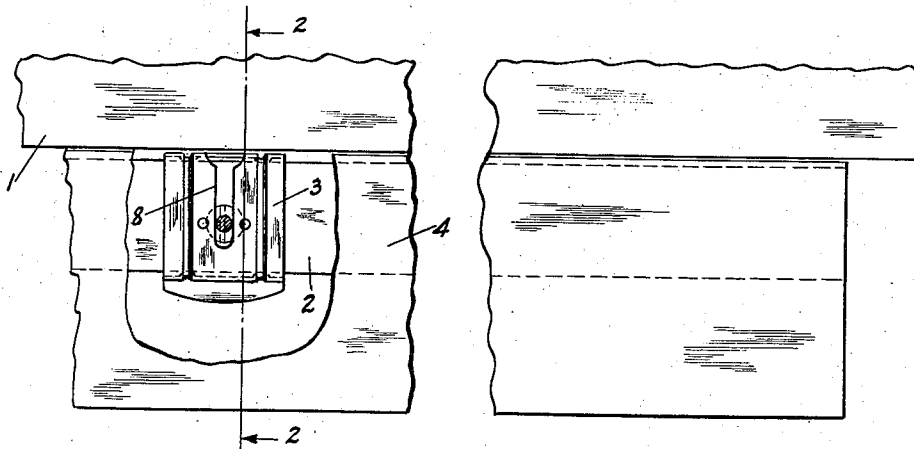


FIG. 1

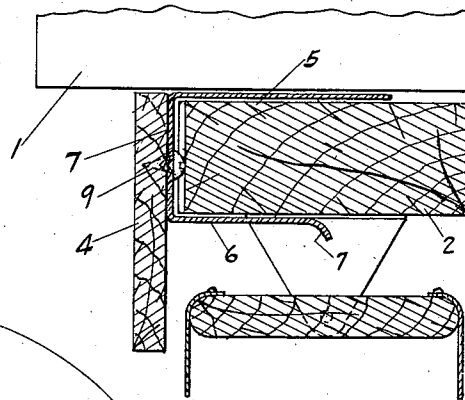


FIG. 2

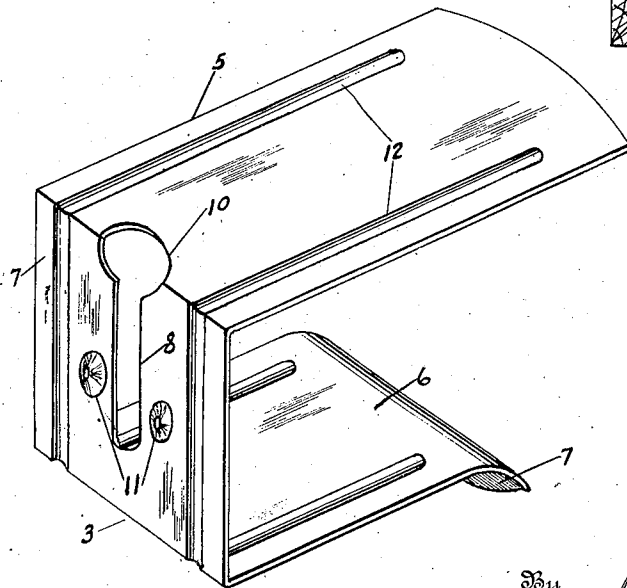


FIG. 3

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VALANCE CLIP AND METHOD OF POSITIONING VALANCE BOARDS

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2 Claims. (Cl. 248—262)

This invention relates to Venetian blinds, and more particularly, to hardware generally associated therewith, the particular piece of hardware being what is known as a valance clip.

The valance clips generally used today are substantially U-shaped members adapted to engage with a head bar or rail, and provided with screw openings whereby the valance board, or the like, is fastened to the valance clip, and then positioned on the head bar or rail.

Heretofore, it has been found that considerable difficulty arose in positioning the valance board properly along its upper edge so as to be in substantial engagement with the top of the window frame in which the Venetian blind is positioned since ordinarily the valance clips are initially positioned rearwardly of the valance board, and thereafter, the valance clips engage the head bar or rail by being frictionally engaged therewith in the U-shaped opening provided by the clip.

Under certain conditions where the window frame is not exactly true, or where the head bar is, of necessity, at different distances in certain places in its length, with respect to the upper portion of the window frame, it has been found difficult to accurately place the valance board with respect to the clips, whereby subsequently when the unit is positioned on the head bar or rail, there will be spaces or space left between the top edge of the board and the lower portion of the upper frame member, and thus the appearance of the valance board, as a whole, will mar the effect of the blind.

Therefore, it is an object of this invention to so form the valance clip or bracket member that regardless of the angle or relationship of the head bar or rail with respect to the upper portion of the window frame, the valance board may be properly positioned with a minimum of trial and error procedure in accordance with the new method herein presented.

It is a further object of this invention to eliminate the necessity of using more than one fastening member to hold the valance board in engagement with the valance clip and at the same time to assure the maintenance of a proper relationship of the valance clip with respect to the valance board, whereby the valance clip will not become misaligned after it is necessarily placed in position on the valance board.

It is a further object of this invention to provide stiffening members or portions formed in the valance clip or bracket whereby comparatively thin metal may be used to form the clip or bracket,

and thus effectuate considerable saving in the manufacture thereof.

Further and more particular objects of the invention will appear during the course of the description of the invention, and as shown in the drawing. In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a front view of a portion of a valance board in place on a Venetian blind, having a portion of the board broken away to show the relationship of the clip or bracket with respect thereto, as ordinarily used.

Figure 2 is a sectional view taken on the line 2—2 of Figure 1, showing the general relationship of the head bar and tilt rail and valance members, as they are used in Venetian blind practice today.

Figure 3 is a greatly enlarged view of the valance clip or bracket itself, illustrating the novel features of the invention residing therein.

Referring now to Figure 1, the upper portion of a window frame is indicated by the numeral 1, as having supported therebeneath the head bar or rail 2, engaged by the valance clip or bracket generally denoted 3. The valance board or member is denoted 4, and is held in place beneath the window frame member 1 by the valance clip, as indicated in the drawing.

To understand more particularly the relationship of the various members and parts which make up the valance clip, reference is here made to Figure 2, wherein the valance clip is shown as comprising spaced side members 5 and 6, and an end member 7. The side member 6 is provided with a downwardly curved portion 7 adapted to facilitate the emplacement of the valance clip and board in its associated relationship upon the head rail or bar, as will be readily understood by those skilled in the art.

The end member 7, hereinbefore referred to, has formed therein an elongated slot 8 adapted to receive a screw or fastening member 9 by which the valance clip or bracket is held in engagement with the valance board 4.

As will be noted from a reference to Figure 3, the elongated slot 8 is provided at one end at the junction of the spaced side member 5 and the end member 7, with a notched-out portion 10, whereby the head of the screw 9 may be introduced into the elongated slot 8 subsequent to emplacement of the screw or fastening 9 upon the valance board 4.

As will be readily observed, the valance board 4 may be adjusted in any one of several positions with respect to the upper window frame member 1, and to facilitate the proper location of the

valance board 4 with respect to the valance clip 3, spaced embedding projections 11 are provided at opposite sides of the slot 8, whereby when the screw is loosely engaged with the valance clip or member 3 in the valance board 4, and the valance clip or bracket is emplaced upon the head rail 2 by pressing firmly against the sharpened ends of the projections 11, indentations will be formed in the valance board 4.

Of course, it is apparent that the valance board 4 will be pressed upwardly into firm engagement at its upper edge with the upper window frame member 1, wherefore to ensure tight and proper engagement thereof.

Subsequently, the valance board and associated clip are thereafter removed from the head bar or rail, and the screw 9 is firmly drawn up so that the end member 7 is in engagement with the inner portion of valance board 4, it, of course, being apparent that the projections 11 are properly placed with relationship to the indentations made in the valance board. Thereafter, the valance board and its associated clip may be emplaced or removed upon the head bar or rail, whereby the proper positioning of the same will be assured, and there will be no crack or other unsightly appearance of the board with respect to the window frame member 1.

As will be seen upon reference to Figure 3, the valance clip 3 is provided with pressed-out strengthening ribs 12, extending substantially throughout the length of the sides and continuing around the end member, thus assuring firm maintenance of the unit as a whole, upon the head bar or rail, with which it is associated.

Initially, the lower member 6 is generally formed so that the lower member 6 is being slightly inwardly at its outer end 7, toward the end member 5, thus assuring a tight frictional engagement of the valance clip or bracket 3, when it is frictionally engaged with the head bar or rail 2.

From the foregoing, it will be readily apparent that there has been provided a novel valance clip or bracket effecting economy of manufacture and

facilitating ease of emplacement upon a valance board or the like, whereby the same is properly positioned with respect to a window frame member, and a minimum amount of metal, or other substance, may be used to form the valance clip or bracket.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is:

1. As a new article of manufacture, a valance clip in the form of a substantially U-shaped member, comprising spaced sides, and an end member, said end member having an elongated slot formed therein to receive a fastening member by which the clip or bracket is held in engagement with a valance board, the said end member having projection means extending therefrom in a direction opposite said sides, for making indicating depressions in a valance board by which the proper position of the clip thereon may be determined.

2. The method of properly positioning a valance board upon a Venetian blind equipped window frame, which includes loosely attaching valance clips, formed with indicating projections thereon, to the inner side of the valance board, thereupon engaging the clips with the head rail on the window frame, then adjusting the valance board by movement of the same relative to the clips so the board will snugly fit against the top portion of the window frame, then pressing the board against the head rail to cause the projections of the clips to impress the inner side of the board with indicating impressions establishing the accurate proper position of the clips as related to the board to hold the board in properly fitted relation to the window frame, thereupon removing the board with the loosely attached clips, then fastening the clips tightly to the valance board in the positions indicated by the indicating impressions previously made, and replacing the board with the clips engaging the head rail.

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