

[54] **DRAPERY CARRIER DEVICE**

[72] Inventors: **Sam Mann**, Sherman Oaks, Calif.;
Ben Mankofsky, 13753 Chandler
Blvd., Van Nuys, Calif. 91401

[73] Assignee: **said Mankofsky, by said Mann**

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[51] Int. Cl.E05d 13/02, A47h 13/00

[58] Field of Search.....16/87.2, 87.4, 87.6, 87.8,
16/93 D, 94 D; 160/345, 348, 346, 347;
24/161 A, 73 CH, 86 R

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Primary Examiner—Bobby R. Gay

Assistant Examiner—Peter A. Aschenbrenner

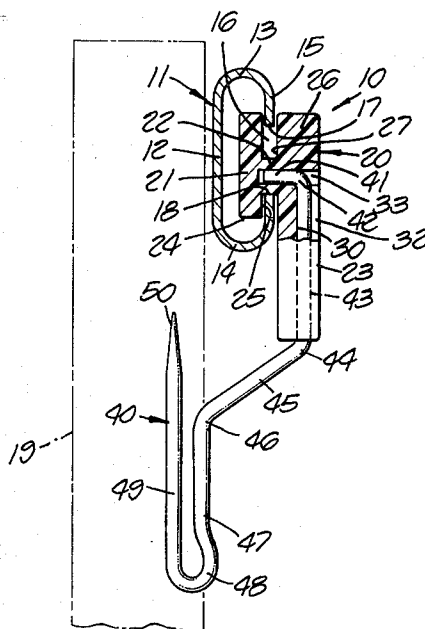
Attorney—Lyon & Lyon

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ABSTRACT

A drapery carrier device for vertically supporting draperies and the like from a traverse rod includes a body member and a hook member. The body member includes a retainer portion which is integrally connected to the upper end of a pendant portion by a shank. The body member is adapted to be slidably mounted on the traverse rod with the retainer portion extending into an elongated slot in the rod and the hook member which is adapted to engage and vertically carry the hem portion of the draperies is rigidly secured to the pendant portion.

9 Claims, 8 Drawing Figures



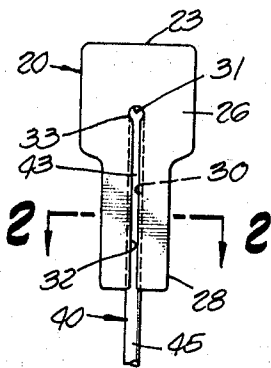


FIG. 1.

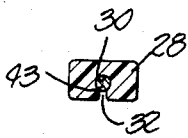


FIG. 2.

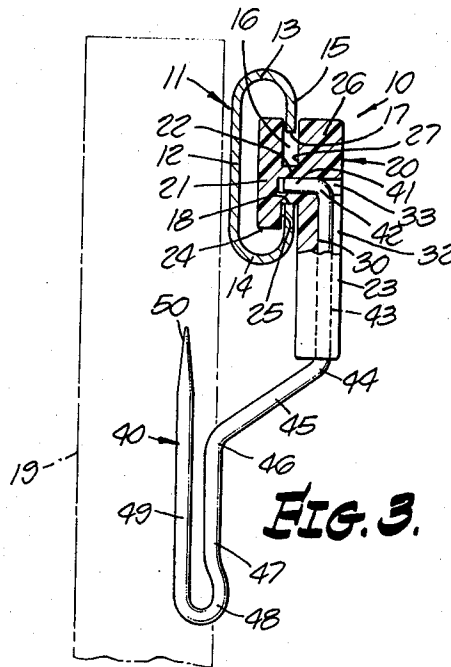


FIG. 3.

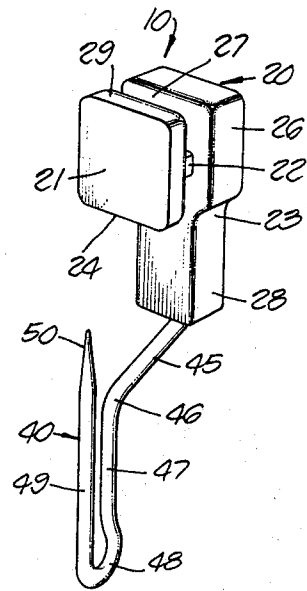


FIG. 4.

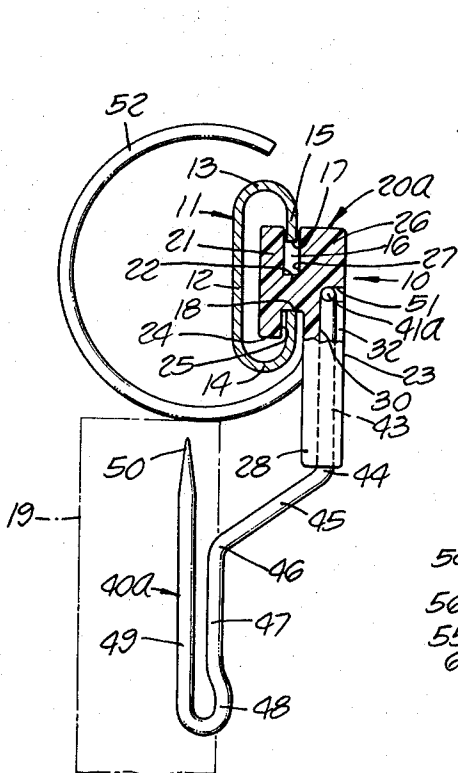


FIG. 5.

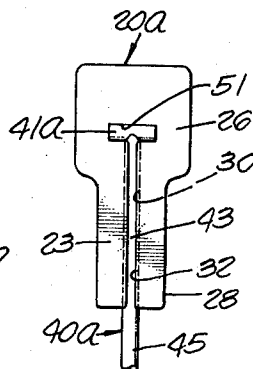


FIG. 6.

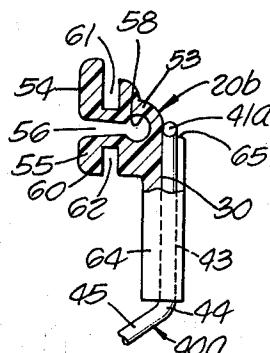


FIG. 8.

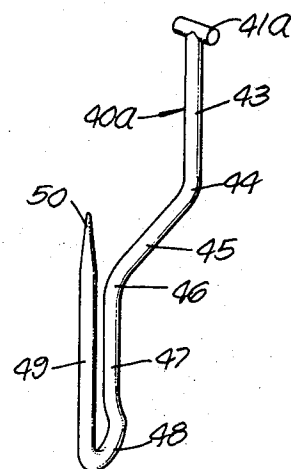


FIG. 7.

SAM MANN
BEN MANKOFSKY
INVENTORS.

BY

Lyon & Lyon

ATTORNEYS

DRAPERY CARRIER DEVICE

This invention relates to a device for slidably mounting draperies on a traverse rod and more particularly relates to a single unit device, one portion of which is adapted to be mounted in the elongated slot of the traverse rod and another portion of which is adapted to carry the hem of the drapery in a vertical position.

When mounting draperies it is common practice to employ elongated, horizontally disposed traverse rods to support the draperies. Traverse rods generally comprise roll-formed sheet metal members, C-shaped in cross-section to define a longitudinally extending slot with a pair of straight, parallel, and laterally spaced rails or guide edges on each side of the slot. The rods are normally mounted at each end longitudinally above and across a vertical planar area in which it is desired to suspend the draperies.

Drapery glides or carriers previously adapted for use with conventional traverse rods generally comprises a body member having a retainer or head portion and a neck portion, with the retainer portion adapted to be inserted into the elongated slot of the traverse rod either through the ends of the rod or directly through the slot while the neck portion is adapted to ride on and extend through and between the rails or guide edges. In these glides or carriers used heretofore, a hook member is loosely suspended on the pendant portion of the body member which extends downwardly from the neck portion outside the slot of the traverse rod. The hook members engage the hem of the draperies and the draperies hang vertically from the hook members, however, because the hook members are free to pivot on the pendant portion of the glide or carrier the weight of the draperies causes the hook members to pivot slightly thereby causing an unsightly and unattractive break in the draperies between the hem portion and the rest of the drapery. Moreover, there is a tendency for these loosely attached hook members to become disengaged from the glide or carrier during the hanging of the draperies to create additional labor costs.

Therefore, it is a primary object of this invention to provide a drapery carrier which will slidably secure draperies to a traverse rod and carry the entire drapery, including the hem portion, in a completely vertical position thereby avoiding any unsightly and unattractive breaks between the hem and the rest of the drapery.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a carrier device for draperies which will alleviate some of the time consuming labor normally inherent with the use of previous carriers or glides.

To accomplish these and other objects, the carrier device of the present invention includes a body member having a retainer portion which is integrally connected to the upper end of a pendant portion by a narrow shank portion. The retainer portion is adapted to be inserted into either the ends of the rod or directly into the elongated slot, with the shank portion extending between and adapted to ride on the lower rail of the traverse rod. The pendant portion is adapted to receive a hook member and lock the hook member in a rigid and fixed position whereby the body member and the hook member then form a single unit device.

Another object of this invention is to provide a carrier device for draperies which is simple and economical to manufacture.

Other objects and advantages of this invention will appear from the following descriptions and the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a rear view of the body member of the carrier device illustrating the attachment of the hook member to the pendant portion of the body member.

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of the pendant portion of the body member taken substantially on the line 2—2 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a side view of the carrier device partially in section illustrating the device mounted on a traverse rod with the hook member secured to the drapery which is designated by phantom lines.

FIG. 4 is a front perspective view of the carrier device.

FIG. 5 is a side view of a modified embodiment of the carrier device partially in section with the body member of the device mounted on a traverse rod and including a decorative ring.

FIG. 6 is a rear view of the body member similar to FIG. 1 illustrating the connection between the pendant portion of the body member and a modified form of the hook member.

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of the modified hook member shown in FIG. 6.

FIG. 8 is a side view partially in section illustrating a further modification of the carrier device.

Referring now in detail to the drawings, the carrier device, generally designated 10, is adapted for use with convention traverse rods of the type having a trackway located in a generally upright wall thereof. Such a traverse rod is shown in FIGS. 3 and 5 of the drawings and is designated by the numeral 11. The traverse rod 11 is generally C-shaped in cross-section and includes a generally upright front wall 12, arched top and bottom walls 13 and 14 and a rear wall 15. The trackway is generally located in the rear wall 15 and comprises an elongated slot 16 extending along the length of the rod 11 and defining spaced upper and lower guide edges or rails 17 and 18, respectively. The ends (not shown) of the traverse rod 11 are adapted to be secured to a wall or the like to position the rod 11 in a horizontal position above and across the vertical planar area in which the drapery, designated by the phantom lines 19, is vertically suspended.

The carrier device 10 is adapted for traverse insertion through the slot 16 and can be removed transversely of the traverse rod 11 through this slot, as well as being able to be inserted and removed from the ends of the traverse rod. However, when disposed in the slot 16, the carrier device 10 is not likely to be inadvertently displaced therefrom.

The carrier device 10 includes a body member 20 having a retainer portion 21, a shank portion 22 and a pendant portion 23, all of which are molded or otherwise formed as a unit from a resilient plastic material, such as polyethylene or nylon. The shank portion 22 is generally elliptical with its vertical width being substantially less than the vertical distance between the upper and lower guide edges 17 and 18 defining the slot 16. The forward end of the shank portion 22 merges into and is integral with the retainer portion 21 which is generally rectangular and extends radially beyond the entire circumference of the shank portion 22. An imaginary line passing through the center of the

retainer portion 21 is parallel to but eccentric to an imaginary line passing through the center of the shank portion 22. More specifically, the imaginary line of the retainer portion 21 is substantially above the imaginary line of the shank portion 22, the lowermost surface 24 of the retainer portion 21 extending slightly below the shallow surface of the shank portion 22, so that a shallow groove 25 is provided between the retainer portion 21 and the upper section 26 of the pendant portion 23 which merges with and is integral with the other or rear end of the shank portion 22. Because of the eccentric location of the retainer portion 21 relative to the shank portion 22, a comparatively deep upper groove 27 is formed between the retainer portion 21 and the upper section 26 of the pendant portion 23.

The upper groove 27 is adapted to receive the upper rail or guide edge 17 and the lower groove 25 is adapted to receive the lower rail or guide edge 18. The space between the retainer portion 21 and the upper section 26 of the pendant portion 23 and the width of the grooves 25 and 27 is defined by the shank portion 22 and is only slightly greater than the thickness of the rear wall 15 to provide a relatively snug fit when the retainer portion 21 is placed within the interior of the traverse rod 11. The vertical distance from the uppermost surface of the shank portion 22 to the lowermost end 24 of the retainer portion 21 is less than the width of the slot 16 of the traverse rod 11.

Thus, when it is desired to attach the carrier device 10 to the traverse rod 11, the lower section 28 of the pendant portion is grasped by the fingers of a persons hand and with the body member 20 inclined slightly relative to the traverse rod 11 the upper part 29 of the retainer portion 21 is inserted through the slot 16 and behind rear wall 15 until the shank is brought into engagement with the guide edge 17. At this point, the lower part 24 of the retainer portion 21 will clear the guide edge 18 and the body member 20 can be pivoted to place the entire retainer portion 21 within the interior of the traverse rod 11. The body member 20 is then allowed to move downward to its normal operative position with respect to the traverse rod 11 with the lowermost surface of the shank portion 22 resting on the edge 18 and with the edge 17 in the groove 27 between the retainer portion 21 and the upper section 26 of the pendant portion 23.

As illustrated in FIGS. 3 and 5, once the carrier device 10 is in this operative position any substantial further inward or outward movement or any clockwise or counter-clockwise movement of the device 10 with respect to the traverse rod 11 is prevented by either the engagement of the upper section 26 of the pendant portion 23 with outer surface of the rear wall 15 or by the engagement of the retainer portion 21 with the inner surface of the rear wall 15. Moreover, because there is an effective groove surrounding the entire circumference of the shank portion 22 the device 10 will remain attached to the traverse rod when the body member is twisted about the axis of the shank portion 22, as well as when it is disposed in the vertical position illustrated.

If it is desired to remove the carrier device 10 from the traverse rod 11, it is only necessary to lift the body member 20 upwardly until the uppermost surface of the shank portion 22 engages the edge 17 and then

pivot the body member 20 away from the traverse rod until the lower part 24 of the retainer portion 21 clears the edge 18. At this point the rest of the retainer portion 21 can be withdrawn from the interior of the traverse rod through the slot 16.

The pendant portion 23, as stated before depends from the rear end of the shank portion 21 and includes an upper section 26 and a lower section 28. The upper section 26 is thicker in cross-section than the retainer portion 21, but is otherwise comparable in size and shape and is in parallel alignment with the retainer portion 21 with the continuous groove around the circumference of the shank portion 22, referred to above, between the upper section 26 and the retainer portion 21. The lower section 28 extends downwardly from the upper section 26 and is the same thickness as the upper section 26 in cross-section, but as seen best in FIGS. 1 and 4, it is narrower across its forward and rear surface in order that it can be easily grasped by ones fingers.

Turning now to one of the more important features of this invention, the rear face or surface of the pendant portion is provided with an elongated channel 30 which extends the length of the lower section 28 and into the upper section 26 where it terminates at 31. As shown in FIG. 2, the channel 30 is circular in cross-section and open along the top, with the opening 32 sufficiently narrower than the diameter of the channel 30. In the preferred embodiment shown in FIGS. 1 — 3, at the termination 31 of the channel 30, there is provided a bore 33 which is open at the rear surface of the upper section 26 of the pendant portion 23 and which extends through the upper section 26 and substantially through the shank portion 22. The bore is substantially perpendicular to the channel and the diameter of the bore 33 is the same as the diameter of the channel 30.

The channel 30 and the bore 33 are both adapted to receive a hook member 40. The hook member 40 comprises an integral unit of relatively rigid metal material, bent in a desired shape and circular in cross-section, with the diameter being substantially the same as that of the channel 30 and the bore 33. The hook member 40 in the preferred embodiment includes a relatively short end section 41 which is bent at 42 approximately 90° and is followed by a straight section 43 which is in the same vertical plane but which is perpendicular to the end section 41. The straight section 43 is bent at 44 approximately 45° to provide a section 45 which is also in the same vertical plane, but angled or inclined with respect to the section 43. Section 45 is also bent at 46 approximately 45° and is followed by a second straight section 47 which is parallel to the first straight section 43 and in the same plane as the other preceeding sections. This second straight section 47 is provided with a U-bend at 48 of 180° whereupon it is followed by a third straight section 49 which is also parallel to sections 43 and 47 and also in the same vertical plane as all the other sections and which terminates in a pointed end 50.

The channel 30 is adapted to receive the straight section 43 of the hook member while the end section 41 fits into the bore 33. The resilient nature of the material forming the pendant portion 23 permits the straight section 43 of the hook member to be pushed under pressure into the channel 30 through the opening 32, but once the pressure is released the sides of the chan-

nel 30 collapse around the straight section 43 to rigidly secure the hook member 40 to the body member 20. As shown in FIGS. 3 and 5, the section 45 of the hook member 40 is of sufficient length to maintain the U-bend 48, which is adapted to carry the drapery 19, and the straight section 49 and pointed end 50, which are adapted to engage and penetrate the drapery 19, at a position laterally beyond the front wall 12 of the traverse rod 11 when the device 10 is slidably mounted on the traverse rod. Moreover, body member 20 is prevented from turning in either a clockwise or counter-clockwise direction when attached to the traverse rod and because the hook member 40 is rigidly secured to the body member 20, the straight sections 47 and 49, which hold and support the hem of the drapery 19, are maintained in a fixed vertical position and in turn maintain the hem in a vertical position and in parallel alignment with the rest of the drapery.

The modifications of this invention shown in FIGS. 5 through 8 all include a hook member 40 which is adapted to be rigidly secured to a body member 20 in order to maintain the hem of the drapery 19 in proper alignment with the rest of the vertically hanging drapery and include some of the same elements described above. For purposes of brevity and clarity, those same elements are designated by the same numerals. The modified hook member 40a shown in FIGS. 5 through 8 is the same as the hook member 40 except it does not include the end section 41, but instead includes a cross-bar 41a which is perpendicular to the straight section 43 and to the vertical plane of the other sections. The hook member 40a is adapted for use with both the modified body member 20a shown in FIGS. 5 and 6 and the modified body member 20b shown in FIG. 8.

The body member 20a also includes the channel 30 which is adapted to receive and rigidly secure the straight section 43 of the hook member 40a, however, it does not include the bore 33 at the termination of the channel 30. Instead it includes a short slot 51 at the termination of the channel which is open at the rear surface of the upper section 26 of the pendant portion 23 and perpendicular to the channel 30. The slot 51 is slightly larger than the cross-bar section 41a and it is adapted to receive the cross-bar 41a when the section 43 is inserted into the channel 30. The slot 51 and the cross-bar 41a prevent vertical movement of the hook member 40a when it is secured to the body member 20a. Also included on the body member 20a is a decorative ring member 52 which extends from the front surface of the lower section of the pendant portion 23 and just above the top of the drapery 19 when the drapery is secured to the hook member 40a. Thus, when this modified form of the carrier device 10 is used the drapery 19 will appear to be hanging from the ring 52 instead of the hook member.

The body member 20b shown in FIG. 8 is of the type which may be adapted for use with traverse rods where the vertical width of the elongated slot opening is substantially less than the normal vertical width of the slot 16 of the traverse rod 11. However, since the conventional traverse rod 11 discussed above and this traverse rod having a narrower elongated slot are substantially identical in all other respects the following description of this embodiment will be discussed in terms of the

traverse rod 11. The body member 20b includes a web member 53 inter-connecting a pair of oppositely oriented jaw members 54 and 55 which together are comparable to the retainer portion and the shank portion described above and which are defined by an inwardly extending opening 56 which terminates in an enlarged, transverse bore 58. Because of the inherent resilience of the material from which the body member 20b is formed, the jaw members 54 and 55 are normally biased in a direction away from each other. As a matter of fact, the upper of the two jaws is far more resilient than the lower and serves to maintain both of the jaw members in operative engagement with the opposite guide edges 17 and 18 of the slot 16 of the traverse rod 11.

The outer most ends of the jaw members 54 and 55 are provided with pronounced radii to facilitate the insertion of the jaw members through the slot 16 in a manner to be described in greater detail below. Retainer means 60 constituted by elongated grooves 61 and 62 are provided on the jaw members, with the grooves 61 and 62 being adapted to receive the opposite edges 17 and 18, respectively, of the slot 16.

The pendant portion 64 is substantially identical to the lower section 28 of the pendant portion 23 of the other body members 20 and 20a and includes the channel 30 which is adapted to receive and rigidly secure the straight section 43 of the hook member 40a. At the termination of the channel 30 there is provided a protruding lip 65 which abuts the cross-bar 41a of the hook member 40a when the straight section 43 is inserted into the channel 30.

When this modified form of the carrier device 10 is to be inserted through the slot 16 of the traverse rod, the upper groove 61 is fitted over the upper edge 17 of the slot 16 and the body member 20b can be pivoted around the fulcrum constituted thereby to bring the radius of the outer extremity of the lower jaw member 55 into operative relationship with the lower edge 18 of the slot 16. Continued inward rotation of the body member 20b will cause the lower jaw member 55 to be cammed upwardly as the upper jaw member 54 is deflected toward the lower jaw. The significance of the enlarged bore 58 at the inner end of the opening 56 becomes apparent when it is considered that the enlarged bore 58 permits and facilitates the inward deflection of the upper jaw member 54 toward the lower jaw member. When the lower jaw member 55 reaches a position in which the lower edge 18 of the slot 16 enters the groove 62 in the lower jaw member, the jaw members 55 and 54 are biased outwardly by the inherent resilience of the material from which the body member 20b is formed and are retained in operative relationship with the opposite edges 17 and 18 of the slot 16. When located in operative relationship with these edges 17 and 18, the weight of the drapery 19 acting through the hook member 40a and on the body member 20b is concentrated primarily on the less resilient lower jaw member 55 and this lower jaw member 55 is sufficiently rigid to substantially restrain pivotal movement of the body member 20b about the lower edge 18.

When desired to remove this modified form of the carrier device from its operative position on the traverse rod, the body member 20b is urged upwardly

to cause downward deflection of the upper jaw member 54 to permit the lower groove 62 in the lower jaw member 55 to be released from operative relationship with the edge 18 of the slot 16 and thus facilitate outward pivotal movement of the body member 20b and the ultimate release of the upper groove 61 from operative relationship with the upper edge 17 of the slot 16 in the traverse rod 11.

This invention provides a drapery carrier device having a hook member and a body member rigidly secured together as a single unit with the hook member engaging and carrying the hem portion of the drapery in vertical alignment with the rest of the drapery thereby preventing an unsightly and unattractive break in the drapery between the hem portion and the rest of the drapery. In addition, because the hook member can be rigidly affixed to the body member, the hook member can be secured to the body member immediately after manufacture of these two components to facilitate shipment of several such carrier devices without the problem of inadvertent disengagement of the hook members or entanglement of the hook members. Moreover, the hook members of the carrier device of this invention cannot be inadvertently disconnected from the body member during hanging of the drapery which will result in a loss in time and greater labor expenses.

Having fully described our invention, it is to be understood that we do not wish to be limited to the details herein set forth, but our invention is of the full scope of the appended claims.

We claim:

1. A drapery carrier device adapted to be slidably mounted on a traverse rod is of the type having an integral body member and a rigid hook member, said body member including a retainer portion, a shank portion and a pendant portion, said retainer portion spaced from and connected to said pendant portion by said shank portion with said retainer portion and said pendant portion defining upper and lower grooves between them, and said retainer portion adapted to be inserted through an elongated slot in the traverse rod into the interior of the traverse rod and said grooves adapted to receive the parallel edges defining the elongated slot, wherein the improvement comprises: said pendant portion being substantially rigid with respect to said shank portion to prevent pivotal movement relative thereto; securing means on said rigid pendant portion receiving a section of said hook member to rigidly secure said hook member thereto; said securing means comprising an elongated channel having resilient sidewalls adapted to surround and grip said hook member; and said hook member having drapery holding sections adapted to carry and maintain the hem of the drapery in parallel alignment with the rest of the drapery when the device 1 mounted on the traverse rod thereby preventing an unsightly break in the drapery.

2. A drapery carrier device adapted to be slidably mounted on a traverse rod is of the type having an integral body member and a rigid hook member, said body member including a retainer portion, a shank portion and a pendant portion, said retainer portion spaced from and connected to said pendant portion by said shank portion with said retainer portion and said pendant portion defining upper and lower grooves

between them, and said retainer portion adapted to be inserted through an elongated slot in the traverse rod into the interior of the traverse rod and said grooves adapted to receive the parallel edges defining the elongated slot, wherein the improvement comprises: securing means on said pendant portion receiving a section of said hook member to rigidly secure said hook member to said body member; said securing means comprising an elongated channel having resilient side walls adapted to surround and grip said hook member; said pendant portion having a bore hole at the termination of said channel which extends through said pendant portion and into said shank portion perpendicular to said channel, said hook member having an end section, said bore hole receiving said end section to further support said hook member on said body member; and said hook member having drapery holding sections adapted to carry and maintain the hem of the drapery in parallel alignment with the rest of the drapery when the device is mounted on the traverse rod thereby preventing an unsightly break in the drapery.

3. A drapery carrier device adapted to be slidably mounted on a traverse rod is of the type having an integral body member and a rigid hook member, said body member including a retainer portion, a shank portion and a pendant portion, said retainer portion spaced from and connected to said pendant portion by said shank portion with said retainer portion and said pendant portion defining upper and lower grooves between them, and said retainer portion adapted to be inserted through an elongated slot in the traverse rod into the interior of the traverse rod and said grooves adapted to receive the parallel edges defining the elongated slot, wherein the improvement comprises: securing means on said pendant portion receiving a section of said hook member to rigidly secure said hook member to said body member; said securing means comprising an elongated channel having resilient side walls adapted to surround and grip said hook member; said pendant portion having an open slot at the termination of said channel which is perpendicular to said channel, said hook member having a crossbar section, said slot receiving said cross bar section to restrain longitudinal movement of said hook member in said channel; and said hook member having drapery holding section adapted to carry and maintain the hem of the drapery in parallel alignment with the rest of the drapery when the device is mounted on the traverse rod thereby preventing an unsightly break in the drapery.

4. A drapery carrier device adapted to be slidably mounted on a traverse rod is of the type having an integral body member and a rigid hook member, said body member including a retainer portion, a shank portion and a pendant portion, said retainer portion spaced from and connected to said pendant portion by said shank portion with said retainer portion and said pendant portion defining upper and lower grooves between them, and said retainer portion adapted to be inserted through an elongated slot in the traverse rod into the interior of the traverse rod and said grooves adapted to receive the parallel edges defining the elongated slot, wherein the improvement comprises: securing means on said pendant portion receiving a section of said hook member to rigidly secure said hook member to said body member; said securing means

comprising an elongated channel having resilient side walls adapted to surround and grip said hook member; said retainer portion and said shank portion comprising a pair of jaw members normally defining a space between them, said space terminating in a transverse bore, said pendant portion including a flexible web adjacent said bore and interconnecting said jaw members, said jaw members being resiliently deflectable into engagement with each other to facilitate insertion of said retainer portion into the interior of the traverse slot through the elongated slot, said pendant portion further including a transversely oriented lip at the termination of said channel, said hook member including a crossbar section, said lip engaging said crossbar section to restrain longitudinal movement of said hook member in said channel; and said hook member having drapery holding sections adapted to carry and maintain the hem of the drapery in parallel alignment with the rest of the drapery when the device is mounted on the traverse rod thereby preventing an unsightly break in the drapery.

5. A single unit carrier device for draperies adapted for use with a traverse rod having an elongated slot defined by a pair of parallel guide edges, comprising: a body member and hook member; said body member including a retainer portion, a shank portion and a pendant portion; said pendant portion depending from said shank portion and being rigid with respect thereto; said retainer portion and said pendant portion separated by said shank portion and defining upper and lower grooves between them; said retainer portion adapted to be inserted through the elongated slot and into the interior of the traverse rod and said grooves adapted to receive the guide edges and restrain pivotal movement of said shank portion with respect to the traverse rod and thereby maintain said body member in a predetermined orientation relative to the traverse rod; securing means on said rigid pendant portion receiving a section of said hook member and fixedly maintaining said hook member to prevent pivotal movement of said hook member with respect to said body member; said securing means adapted to receive a length of said hook section and having means converging around at least the ends of said length to prevent pivotal movement of said section about an axis perpendicular to said length; said

length extending along said pendant portion to said shank and thereby rigidifying said pendant portion; said hook member having drapery supporting sections adapted to receive the hem of the drapery whereby said secured hook member maintains said drapery supporting sections in a substantially vertical orientation for support of the hem of the drapery in parallel alignment with the rest of the drapery.

6. In a drapery glide and hook arrangement of the type used on generally C shaped traverse rods for supporting drapes therefrom wherein the glide slidably fits the rod and the hook has one portion impaled in the drapery and another portion hooked onto the glide, the improvement comprising; said glide having a head portion adapted to be supported by a C shaped traverse rod and a rigid pendant portion depending therefrom; means on said pendant portion for fixedly joining said hook to said glide with said hook depending from said glide, said one portion of the hook extending upwardly in a predetermined orientation relative to said glide for supporting the drapery in a vertical attitude, and said other portion of the hook extending upwardly along said pendant portion to said head portion and thereby rigidifying said pendant portion.

7. The device of claim 6, wherein said means for fixedly and rigidly joining said hook to said glide included means on said pendant portion adapted to receive a substantially vertical length of said hook portion hooked onto the glide with means to restrain at least the ends of said length from transverse movement with respect to said pendant portion in at least one direction thereby preventing pivotal movement of said hook about a horizontal axis when the weight of the drapery acts on the impaled hook portion.

8. The device of claim 6 wherein said means for fixedly and rigidly joining said hook to said glide includes an elongated channel sufficiently enclosed to converge around a length of said hook in said channel and restrain transverse movement of said length from said channel, and means to prevent axial movement of said length in said channel in at least one direction.

9. The device of claim 8, wherein said channel is completely enclosed and said means for preventing axial movement of said length in said channel is at one end of said channel.

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