Aug. 20, 1957 S. ROSS 2,803,086

CURTAIN STRETCHERS

Filed Nov. 30, 1953 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

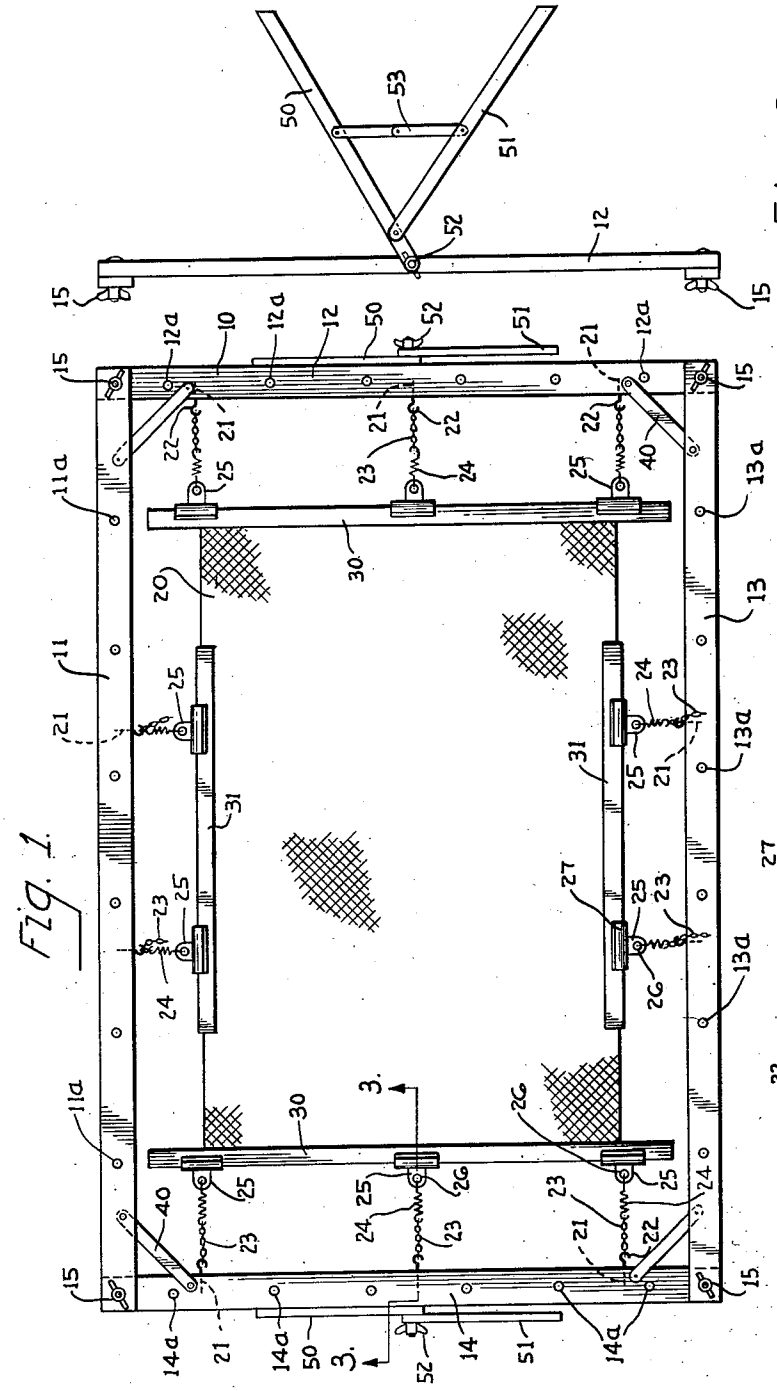


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

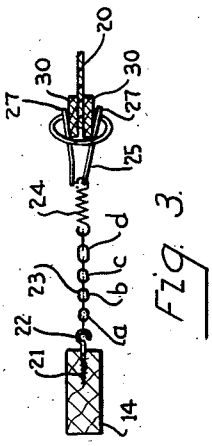


Fig. 3

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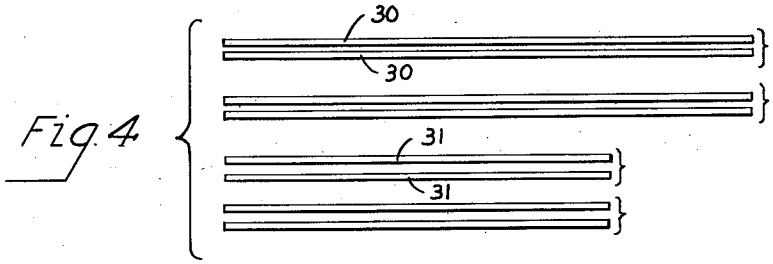


Fig. 4

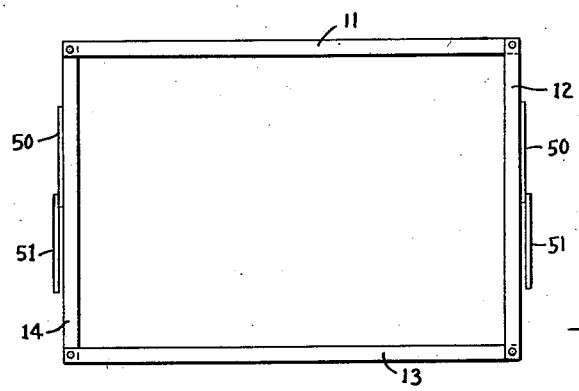


Fig. 5.

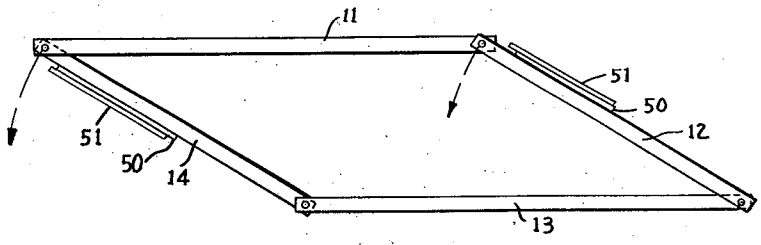


Fig. 6.

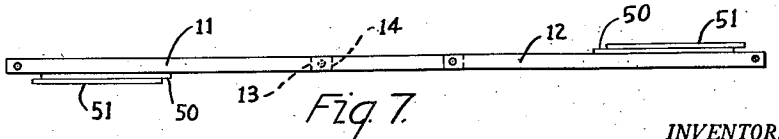


Fig. 7.

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CURTAIN STRETCHERS

Sol Ross, Cleveland, Ohio

Application November 30, 1953, Serial No. 395,046

1 Claim. (Cl. 45—24)

My invention relates to curtain stretchers and relates more particularly to curtain stretchers used for stretching curtains after laundering and during the drying thereof.

It is an object of my invention to provide a stretcher of the type referred to whereby any desired tension may be exerted upon the curtain and an even tension exerted upon all portions thereof.

Another object of my invention is to provide a stretcher of the character described which may be folded when not in use and which, when folded, occupies the minimum amount of space.

A still further object of my invention is to provide a stretcher of the character described which will not exert upon any particular portion of the curtain more stretch than upon any other portion so that the edges may be maintained perfectly straight during drying.

A further object of my invention is to provide a curtain stretcher of the type referred to which will be inexpensive to manufacture, being composed of but few parts, economical and highly efficient in use.

Other objects of my invention and the invention itself will become more readily apparent by reference to the body of this specification and the accompanying drawings, in which drawings:

Fig. 1 is a top elevational view of the device applied to a curtain;

Fig. 2 is a side elevational view showning the operative position of the stretcher;

Fig. 3 is a view taken through the line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a top plan view of the curtain bars shown in Fig. 1;

Figs. 5, 6 and 7 are diagrammatic views of the stretcher frame of my invention showing successive folding operations.

Referring now to the drawings in all of which like parts are designated by like reference characters, the frame is composed of four bars **11**, **12**, **13** and **14**, each of which is provided with a plurality of openings **11***a*, **12***a*, **13***a* and **14***a* for purposes to be later described herein. Said apertures are preferably evenly spaced and identically spaced in each of the bars, as shown. Wing nuts or like fasteners **15** are provided to secure the bar **11** to bars **12** and **14** and to secure bar **13** to bars **12** and **14**. The wing nuts may be alternatively used in any of the apertures in order to lengthen or shorten the same depending upon the size of the curtain **20**, for which the operator may be employing the stretcher. Obviously the same adjustment should preferably be made on either side in moving the wing nuts on the bars from one position to another.

Each of the bars **11**, **12**, **13** and **14** are preferably made of wood and are adapted to have wood screws **21** fastened thereto at spaced intervals, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3. The screws are provided with hook end portions **22** which are provided for the purpose of receiving links **23** adapted to be secured at their opposite ends to spring means **24** which are adapted to be secured to clamp means **25** anchoring the same within an aperture **26** thereof.

The particular fastening means may be of any preferred form so long as extensible means similar to the link **23** are provided for the purpose of providing different adjustments and tensions which may be measured and accurately determined.

Clamping means **25**, preferably of metallic material, having a pair of widened spring clamping ends **27**, **27** are provided which are adapted to compressively hold a pair of flat curtain holding members **30** and **31** preferably formed of wood and placed on each of the sides of the curtain **20** at the edge thereof. The stretcher holding members **30** may be relatively long, as shown in Fig. 1 at the opposite ends of the curtain and adapted to have a plurality, as for example three in number, spring clamping elements **25** associated therewith, or may be relatively short, as shown at either side of the curtain, or as shown in Fig. 1 at the top and bottom of the curtain, and adapted to have only a pair of clamping elements **25** associated therewith. The length of the holding members may be varied as desired.

In either case, the only contact with the curtain being stretched is had by the flat members **30** and **31** which are disposed on either side of all edges thereof as shown.

Flat brace members **40** preferably of metal are preferably provided which are screw threaded to each of the corners of the frame **10** to assist in bracing and maintaining the frame in its operative generally rectangular position with the adjacent frame sides thereof disposed at right angles to each other.

The folded position of the frame is best illustrated in Figs. 5, 6 and 7 hereof and the folding is accomplished by the loosening or removal of one of several wing nuts **15** from a corner of the frame, a loosening of the other wing nuts **15** and the folding of the bars **11**, **12**, **13** and **14** upon each other, as shown.

The legs **50** and **51** disposed at either side of the frame are also adapted to be folded as shown in Fig. 7 or extended as shown in Fig. 2 and the same are pivotally secured as at **52** to the frame and are connected by a hinged bar **53** adjacent their mid-portions so that the extension possible of said legs is restricted to the width of the bar **53** and the bar **53** acts as a brace for the leg supports for the frame.

In use, the frame is assembled by tightening the wing nuts **15**, the brace members **40**, and spreading the legs **50** and **51** apart to the fullest extent made by the bar **53**. The frame **10** is then disposed horizontally, as shown in Fig. 5.

In this operative position, a plurality of the clamps **25** secured by the spring or tension members **24** and screw means **21** to the bars **11**, **12**, **13** and **14** dangle or hang from the said bars.

To place the curtain to be stretched on the stretcher described, the housewife will take a laundered damp curtain and place a pair of flat members **30** on either side of one edge of the curtain. She then places the clamping members **25** over the said pair of flat members, as shown in Fig. 1, and then proceeds to place a pair of flat members on the other edges of the curtain and to clamp the same, as aforesaid.

To secure a uniform tension, the link means are secured to the screw hook end **22** by the same link, whether this be link "*a*" to afford less tension or "*d*" to attain maximum tension. To adjust the tension other links, as for example "*b*", "*c*" etc., in the link means **23** are used but consistently the same link should be used in each of the clamping members to attain uniform tension.

Although I have described my invention in connection with a preferred embodiment thereof, I am aware that numerous and extensive departures may be made therefrom without however departing from the spirit of my invention or the scope of the appended claim.

I claim:

In a curtain stretcher or like device, a rectangular member comprised of four flat frame elements, a plurality of spaced apertures disposed in each of said frame elements, securing means adapted to secure said frame elements together by means of the selection of any of the said apertures wherefore the frame may enclose various size curtains, fastening means comprising hook means, a plurality of link means, spring means and clamp means, said hook means being secured to said link means, said link means being secured to said spring means, and said spring means being secured to said clamp means, said hook means are adapted to be fastened to the sides of said frame elements, a pair of flat members of less length than the full extended assembled length of the said frame adapted to be disposed over each of the sides of a curtain to be stretched, said clamp means adapted to be clamped over said flat members and exerting spring tension thereon, each of said link means adapted to be secured by the same link to exert uniform tension upon said curtain.

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