March 3, 1959 M. P. BURNS 2,875,971

VENETIAN BLIND RACK

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Fig. 1

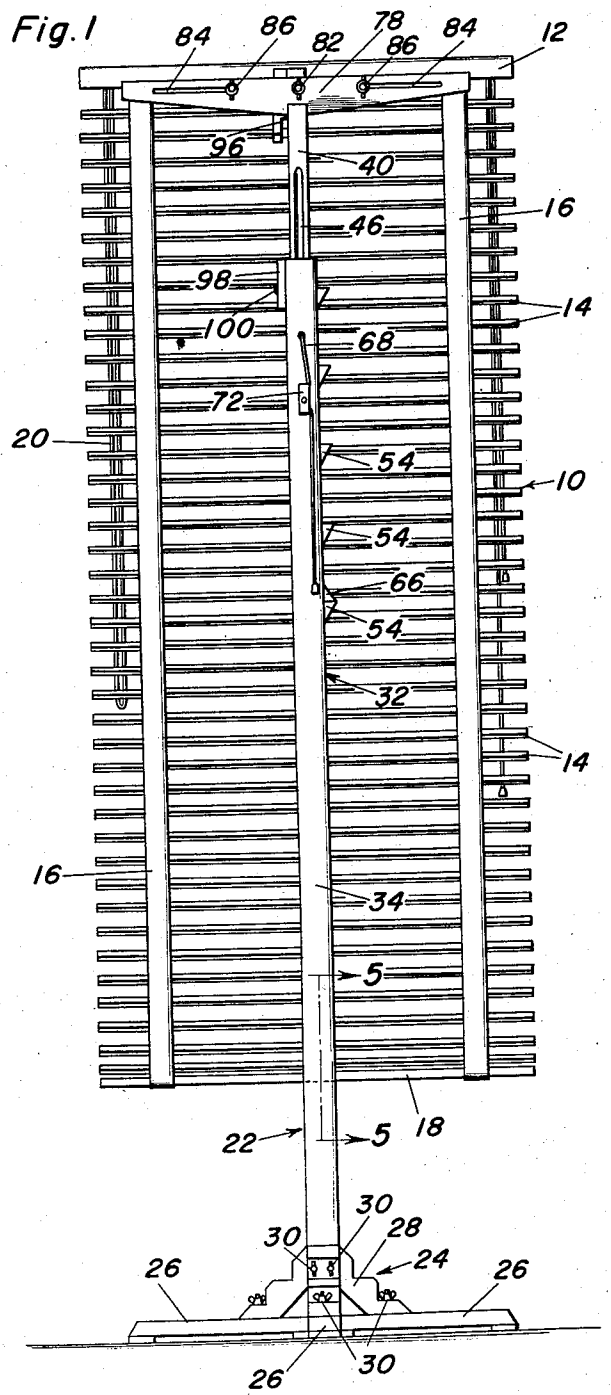


Fig. 2

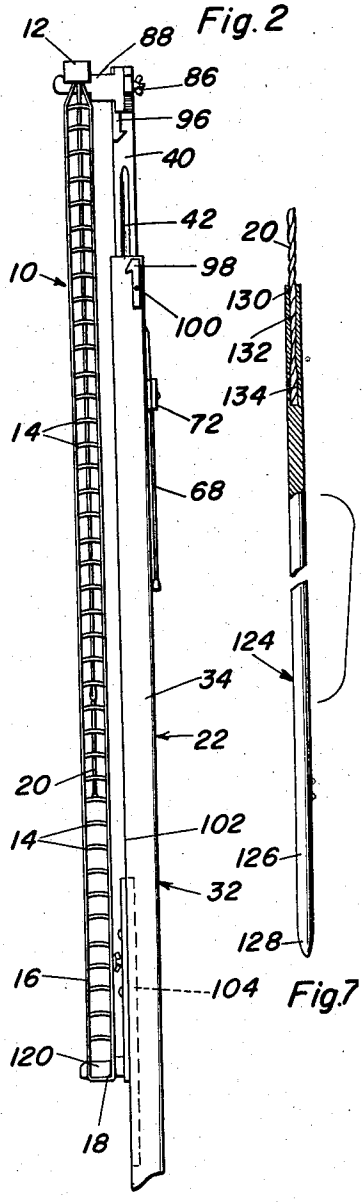


Fig. 7

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VENETIAN BLIND RACK

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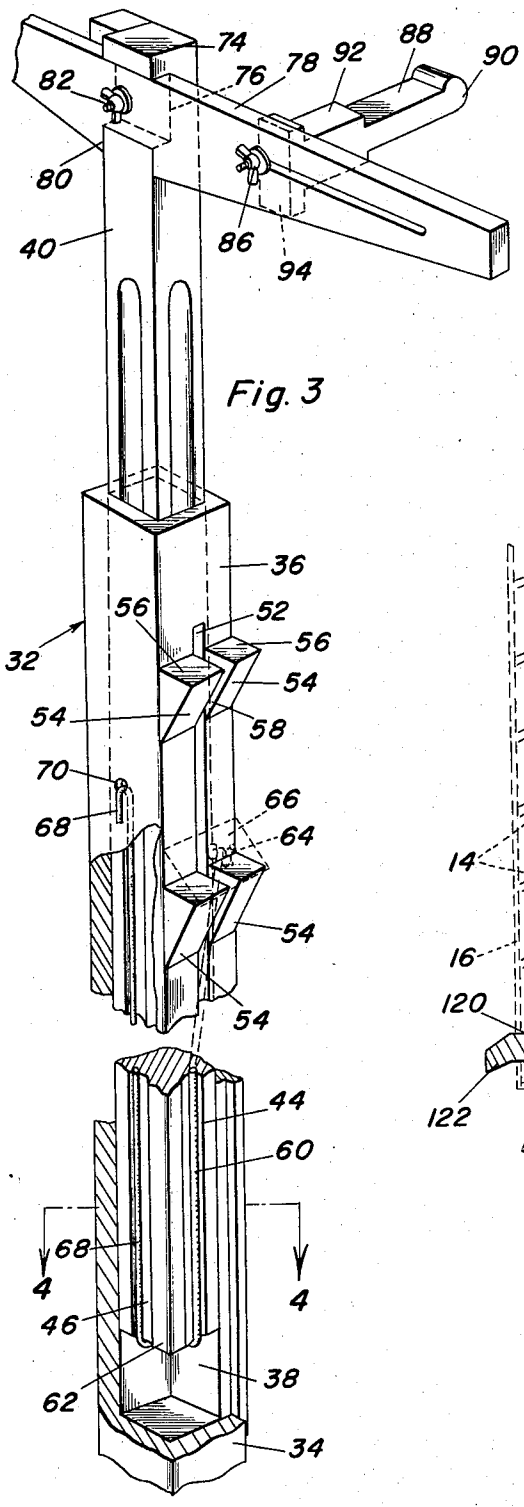


Fig. 3

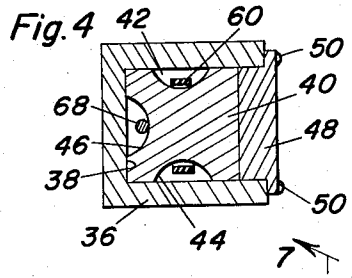


Fig. 4

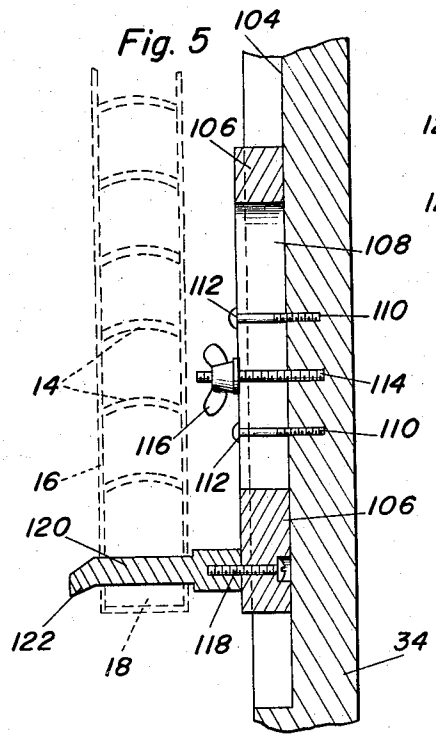


Fig. 5

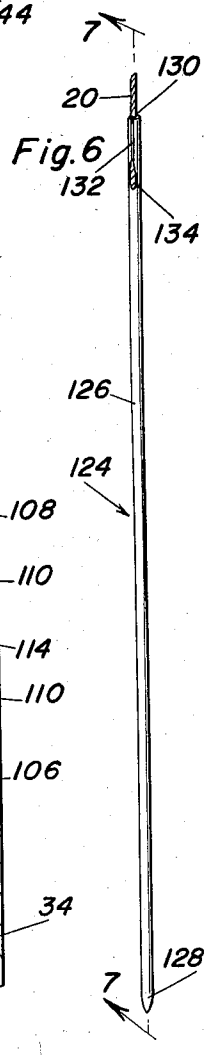


Fig. 6

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VENETIAN BLIND RACK

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2 Claims. (Cl. 248—161)

This invention relates generally to support stands or racks and is more particularly concerned with improvements in a support rack for Venetian blinds wherein the cleaning, re-taping and re-rigging is facilitated.

Accordingly a principal object of invention is to provide a Venetian blind support rack which includes a resiliently urged extensible central support standard, an upper portion of which has a transverse frame member supporting a pair of spaced adjustable Venetian blind support arms, the lower portion of said support member including an outwardly extending Venetian blind contacting arm.

A further object of invention in conformance with that set forth above is to provide a Venetian blind support rack which is readily disassembled and being constructed of a plurality of detachable parts.

And a further object of invention in conformance with that set forth above is to provide a needle or cord threader element which facilitates the re-rigging of a Venetian blind supported on the rack, said threading structure including cord retaining means for clampingly engaging the end of the Venetian blind cord and permitting ready insertion of said cord through the conventional slats of a Venetian blind.

These together with other objects and advantages which will become subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout, and in which:

Figure 1 is an elevational view of the novel Venetian blind rack;

Figure 2 is a partial side elevational view of the novel rack;

Figure 3 is a perspective view with portions broken away for clarity;

Figure 4 is a sectional view taken substantially on line 4—4 of Figure 3;

Figure 5 is an enlarged partial sectional view taken substantially on line 5—5 of Figure 1;

Figure 6 is an elevational view of the novel blind cord rigging needle; and

Figure 7 is a sectional view taken substantially on line 7—7 of Figure 6.

Indicated generally at **10** is a Venetian blind which includes a top suspension bar **12**, a plurality of horizontally disposed tiltable slats **14** which are supported on conventional vertically extending Venetian blind tapes **16**, said blind including the usual bottom bar **18**, and further including the conventional cord rigging, identified by reference character **20** which provides means for raising or urging the slats **14** together, or tilting the slats **14** for preventing the penetration of light through said Venetian blind, all of this previously mentioned structure being conventional and well known.

A Venetian blind support rack or standard is indicated generally at **22**, which includes a support surface engaging base **24** which has a plurality of angularly related leg portions **26**, which may take the configuration of a "cross," said legs being secured by means of brace elements **28** and wing bolt assemblies **30** to a vertically extending extensible support rod **32**.

The support rod **32** includes a lower rod portion **34** which has the lower end thereof secured to the brace elements **28**, as previously described, the upper end of the rod portion **34** being hollowed out and defining a tubular support portion **36** which includes the tubular vertically extending hollowed out portion **38**. Reciprocably and adjustably received within the bore portion of the tubular portion **36** of the rod portion **34** is an upper rod support portion **40** which includes a pair of oppositely disposed longitudinal flutes or grooves **42** and **44** for a purpose to be subsequently described, and which includes on one of the other sides a longitudinally extending flute or groove **46**, the side opposite the groove **46** being disposed adjacent a removable cover portion **48** defining one of the sides of the tubular portion **36** of the rod **34**, said plate **48** being secured to the rod by means of suitable fastening screws **50**. The portion **36** of the rod **34** includes a longitudinally extending slot **52** which is in communication with the bore portion **38**, and spaced on opposite sides of the slotted portion **52** are a plurality of vertically disposed suitably secured pairs of triangular abutment elements **54**, each of which includes a horizontal upper stop surface **56**, the spacing of the elements **54** providing an open slot **58** in communication with the slot portion **52**. Suitably secured in the groove **42** of the rod element **40** is a suitable resilient or elastic band element **60** which extends across the bottom **62** of the rod element **40** and upwardly within the groove portion **44** having an end portion **64** which is suitably secured to an angular shaped block element **66** which may be disposed on any one of the pairs of stop elements **54** thus providing a force which tends to urge the rod portion **40** out of the tubular support portion **36** and the lower rod portion **34**. The element **66** will be placed on any one of the plurality of pairs of spaced stop elements **54** depending upon the amount of force desired.

Secured to the bottom portion **62** of the rod element **40** is a suitable raising cord **68** which extends upwardly in the groove or fluted portion **46** and through the tubular portion **36** at an aperture **70** which communicates with the bore portion **38**, said cord being utilized by applying tension thereto whereupon the rod portion **40** may be adjusted vertically and after having been adjusted to a predetermined position the cord **70** may be secured to a suitable upwardly extending bracket or nail **72**, which retains the support portion **40** in a predetermined adjusted position.

The upper end **74** of the rod portion **40** includes adjacent thereto a horizontally disposed notched out portion **76** which removably receives therein a medial portion of a cross bar element **78**, said cross element including a vertically disposed open notch portion **80**, the sides of which extended in overlying relationship relative to oppositely disposed sides of the element **40**. The cross bar **78** includes a suitable aperture portion through which extends a wing nut assembly **82** secured to the rod portion **40** and permitting the ready removal of the cross bar **78** from the rod portion **40**.

The cross bar **78** includes at each of its opposite ends a pair of horizontally extending open slots **84** each of which removably receives a wing bolt assembly **86** which extends rearwardly from an outwardly extending support arm **88** to support thereon the top suspension bar **12** of the Venetian blind.

The support arms **88**, as seen in Figure 3, include an upwardly turned curved end portion **90** and an enlarged rear portion **92** which terminates in a further enlarged portion **94** providing a support shoulder which extends

substantially the entire width of the cross bar **78**. The portions **90** and **92** of the support arm **88** define a recessed portion for more adequately retaining therein the previously mentioned top suspension bar of the Venetian blind.

Extending downwardly from adjacent the upper end portion **74** of the rod portion **40** is a suitably secured hook element **96** which is engageable with a hook element **98** mounted on a suitable horizontal pivot pin **100** carried on the upper end of the rod portion **34**. The aforementioned cooperating hook portions are available for retaining portions **34** and **40** together when it is desired to transport or store the Venetian blind rack.

The side **102** of the rod portion **34** includes a longitudinally extending slot portion **104** which has slidably disposed therein a block element **106**, said block element including a longitudinally extending slotted portion **108** which has a pair of spaced retaining bolts **110** extending therethrough, said screws having enlarged head portions **112** for retaining but permitting relative slidable movement of the block element **106** relative to the slot **104** in the rod portion **34**. Also extending through the slotted portion **108** of the block element **106** is a bolt element **114** which has a wing nut **116** secured thereon in overlying relationship to the slotted portion **108** of the block **106**. Thus it is apparent that the block element **106** may be adjusted vertically relative to the stop members or screw elements **110** by loosening the wing nut **116**. The block element **106** has extending through a suitable recessed portion in its lower end a fastening screw element **118** which is secured to a rear enlarged portion of an outwardly extending arm element **120** which includes a downwardly extending end portion **122**, said arm element underlying the previously mentioned arms **88** and generally extending in overlying relationship relative to the usual bottom bar of the Venetian blind.

Utilization of the Venetian blind support rack is believed readily apparent, wherein it is desirable to use the rack for either the purpose of cleaning or re-rigging Venetian blinds, the top suspension bar **12** is placed over the top of the support arms **88**, the spacing of said arms then being adjusted by means of the wing nut assemblies **86**, thereafter, after it has been determined that the blind structure requires an extension of the support portion **40**, the cord **68** may be manipulated as previously explained to accomplish the raising of the extensible portion **40**. At the same time the block element **66** which cooperates with the resilient or elastic element **60** will have been positioned in one of the suitable cooperating pairs of stop elements **54** for aiding in urging the positioning of the extensible support element **40**. Of course, the bottom bar **18** will have been positioned beneath the arm **120**, and accordingly the Venetian blind will be in a position for either cleaning, re-rigging, or for merely displaying the same. It is believed readily apparent that a plurality of slotted portions **104**, or a relatively elongated slotted portion **104** may be provided on the bottom support member **34** in order to accommodate on the Venetian blind exceptionally short Venetian blinds.

Illustrated in Figures 6 and 7 is a re-threading or re-rigging needle element indicated generally at **124**, said needle element including an elongated shank portion **126** which has at one end a rounded or blunted end **128**, and which includes at the other end a tubular end portion **130**, said tubular end portion being interrupted by a longitudinally extending slot which has a reduced dimension portion **132** terminating in an enlarged slotted portion **134** disposed inwardly of the tubular end of said needle element.

The Venetian blind cord as indicated at **20** is inserted in the enlarged slotted portion **134** and thence is pulled out of the tubular end **130** of the needle element whereupon the cord **20** is gripped or securely engaged by the reduced slotted portion **132** of said needle element. It is believed readily apparent that the needle element **124** may be readily utilized in re-rigging of the Venetian blind which includes a plurality of apertured portions extending through the Venetian blind slats **14**, said apertures appearing generally behind the tape element **16** of Figure 1.

Various positional directional terms such as "front," "rear," "top," etc., are utilized herein to have only a relative connotation to aid in describing the device and are intended to require any particular orientation with respect to any external elements.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention as claimed.

What is claimed as new is as follows:

1. In combination, a base, a vertical tubular member rising from said base and having an open upper end and an elongated vertical slot in one side thereof, a vertically elongated member rising out of said tubular member and having an upper end provided above the tubular member with means adapted to suspend a Venetian blind therefrom, said vertically elongated member being vertically slidably adjustable in the tubular member to vertically adjust a Venetian blind suspended from said means, and means for adjusting said vertically elongated member comprising a flexible member in the tubular member extending under the vertically elongated member with one end attached to the upper end of the tubular member and its other end projecting out of said slot for lifting in the slot to lift the vertically elongated member, a crosspiece on said last named end of the flexible member, and vertically spaced pairs of abutment members on said side of the tubular member spaced apart in each pair at opposite sides of the slot to pass said last named end of the flexible member between the blocks of the pairs, and seating said crosspiece on said pairs in different lifted positions of said last named end of the flexible member whereby to hold said vertically elongated member in different adjusted positions.

2. The combination of claim 1, said vertically elongated member having longitudinal slots in opposite sides thereof for guiding said flexible member.

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