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VENETIAN BLIND SLAT HOLDER

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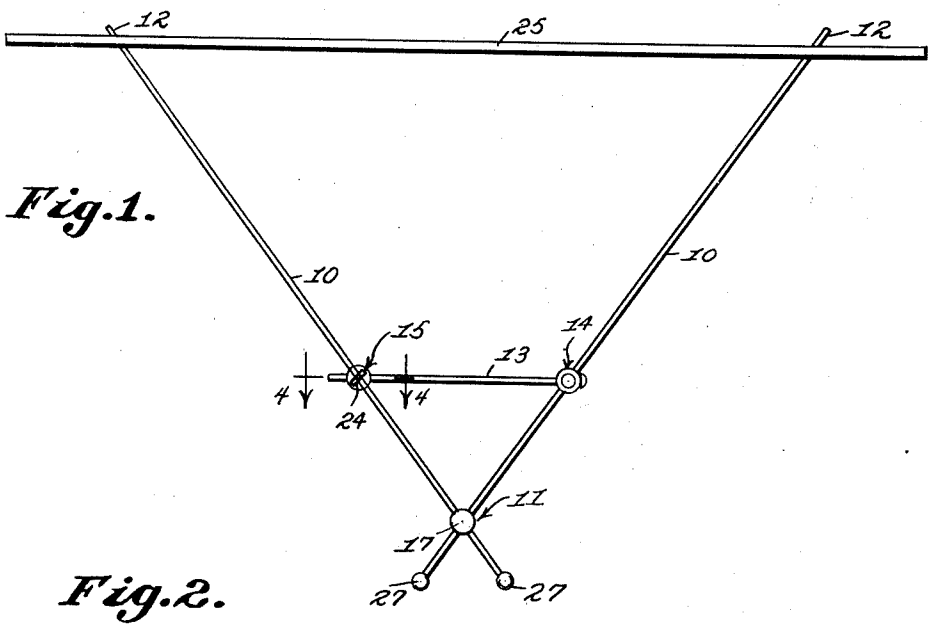
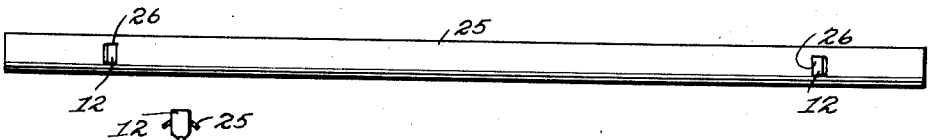


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.



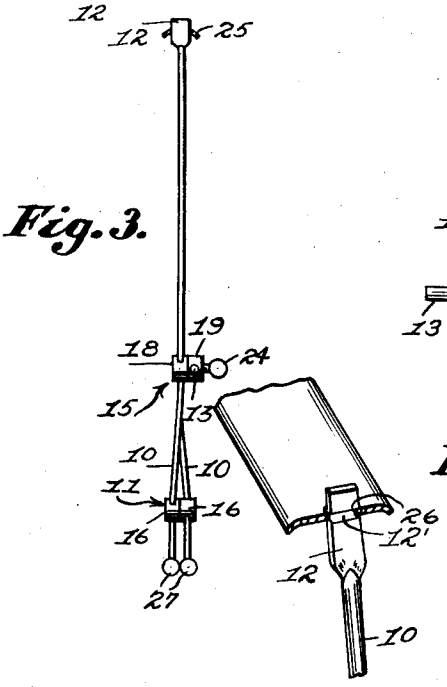


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

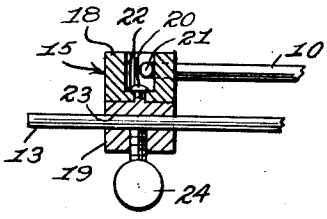


Fig. 5.

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VENETIAN BLIND SLAT HOLDER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 91—60)

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This invention relates to improvements in holders or supports, and more particularly to a holder for supporting venetian blind slats while the same are being cleaned or painted.

It is among the objects of the invention to provide an improved slat holder by means of which an individual blind slat can be conveniently supported for painting or other treatment, which is easily engageable with and dis-engageable from a conventional blind slat, is effective to support the slat so that all surfaces thereof are exposed for painting, is light in weight so that the holder and a slat carried thereby are easily handled by a person using the same, and which is simple, durable and economical in construction and easy to use.

Other objects and advantages will become apparent from a consideration of the following description and appended claims in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a face elevation of a blind slat holder, illustrative of the invention and a conventional blind slat supported thereby;

Figure 2 is a top plan view of the slat and holder illustrated in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a side elevation of the slat and holder illustrated in Figure 1, an end portion of the slat being broken away and shown in cross-section;

Figure 4 is a longitudinal cross-section on the line 4—4 of Figure 1 showing on an enlarged scale a structural detail of the holder; and

Figure 5 is a fragmentary perspective view showing an end portion or tip of the holder operatively engaged in a slot of the blind slat, the end portion of the slat being broken away and shown in cross-section to better illustrate the arrangement.

It is conventional practice in painting blind slats to suspend the slats on a horizontal wire or line threaded through slots in the slats and to then paint the portions of the slats depending from the line and when such painted surfaces have dried, to re-string the slats on the line in inverted position and complete the painting thereof, the slats being then suspended from the wire or line until completely dried.

This is a laborious and time-consuming process, requires that the slats be handled several times and necessitates special equipment in the wires or lines and the supports therefor.

It is conceived that the operation of re-painting blind slats can be greatly expedited and facilitated by providing a support for the slats so that each slat can be completely painted in one operation and then suspended from a convenient pin or hook to dry without any re-handling of the slats after paint is applied thereto.

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This improvement in the painting of blind slats is accomplished by the provision of the special holder constituting the subject matter of the present invention. This holder comprises a pair of elongated, crossed-over rods 10 secured together at their cross-over point by a pivotal connection, generally indicated at 11, so that the two rods diverge from this point and are relatively movable toward and away from each other. Each rod is provided at its outer or distal end, remote from the pivotal connection 11, with a flattened tip 12 having a width and thickness corresponding to the length and breadth of the slots in conventional blind slats and a length materially greater than the thickness of such a slat. Means are provided for releasably locking the rods 10 in position, such that the tips 12 of the two rods 10 are spaced apart a distance substantially equal to the distance between the slots in the blind slat to be painted. Such means may conveniently comprise a cross-rod 13 pivotally connected at one end to one of the rods 10 by a pivotal connection 14 and adjustably connected to the other rod by a releasable lock connection 15.

Each tip has a shallow groove 12' extending transversely across the outer side thereof.

The pivotal connection 11, between the rods 10, comprises two cylindrical bodies 16, each having an axial and a diametrical opening therethrough. The rods 10 extend through the diametrical openings in respective bodies 16 and are firmly secured therein and a suitable pivot pin 17 extends through the axial openings in the bodies 16 and pivotally secures the bodies together for relative rotation.

The pivotal connections 14 between the elongated rod 10 and the cross-rod 13 is similar in construction and operation to the pivotal connection 11, and the releasable lock connection 15, particularly illustrated in Figure 4, comprises a cylindrical body 18 and a corresponding cylindrical body 19. The body 18 is provided with an axial opening receiving a headed pivot pin 20 which rotatably connects the bodies 18 and 19 together and with a diametrical opening 21 which slidably receives the corresponding rod 10, the rod 10 being firmly secured in this opening against movement relative to the body 18. The axial opening in body 18 is provided with a counterbore 22 so that the rod 10 may pass through

the body without interference with the pivot pin 20. Body 19 is provided with a diametrical opening 23 which slidably receives the cross-rod 13 and with a screw-threaded axial opening which receives a set screw 24 by means of which the cross-over rod is releasably locked relative to the body 19.

With this arrangement the tips on the distal ends of rods 10 may be moved toward or away from each other and held in adjusted position by tightening the set screw 24.

In using the device the set screw 24 is loosened and a blind slat 25 secured to the holder by passing the tips 12 through the slots 26 in the blind slat. The set screw 24 is then tightened, thereby locking the blind slat on the holder after which the slat may be painted or otherwise treated. The angular position of the tips 12 relative to the blind slat will positively prevent movement of the slat relative to the holder after the slat is placed thereon and the set screw 24 tightened. When the painting has been completed the set screw 24 is loosened, the slat removed from the tips 12 and hung on a convenient pin or hook to dry.

In the arrangement illustrated the ends of the rods 10 opposite the tips extend somewhat beyond the pivotal connection 11 to provide a more convenient leverage for supporting the holder manually and these ends of the rods are finished by suitable means, such as small balls 27 to eliminate any danger of personal injury to a person using the holder.

The invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or essential characteristics thereof. The present embodiment is, therefore, to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive, the scope of the invention being indicated by the appended claims rather than by the foregoing description, and all changes which come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are, therefore, intended to be embraced therein.

What is claimed is:

1. A holder for Venetian blind slats comprising a pair of rods, each having at one end a flattened tip of reduced thickness with respect to the thickness of the rod, said tip being rectangular in cross-section and of expanded width with respect to the rod, a pair of cylindrical bodies, pivot means axially connecting said bodies together for relative rotation, said bodies being formed with diametrical openings through which the respective rods extend and in which said rods are secured at locations adjacent the ends thereof opposite said tips, the axis of said pivot means being substantially at the intersection of the planes of the flattened tips and each tip being formed with a groove extending transversely thereacross, a cross rod pivotally secured to one of said first-mentioned rods between the tip thereon and said pivot means, a receptacle pivotally secured to the other of said first-mentioned rods and having a diametrically-extending opening therethrough receiving said cross rod, and a set screw in said receptacle operative to releasably lock said cross rod therein, whereby said tips may be releasably secured at a distance apart corresponding to the distance between the slots of a blind slat.

2. A holder for Venetian blind slats comprising a pair of round rods, each having at one end a flattened tip of reduced thickness with respect to the thickness of the rod, said tip being rectangular in cross-section and of expanded width with respect to the rod, a pair of cylindrical bodies, a pivot means axially connecting said bodies together for relative rotation, said bodies being formed with diametrical openings through which the respective rods extend and in which said rods are secured at locations adjacent the ends thereof opposite said tips, the rotational axis of said pivot means being substantially at the intersection of the planes of the flattened tips and each tip being formed with an outwardly-facing groove extending transversely thereacross, a cross rod pivotally secured to one of said first-mentioned rods between the tip thereon and said pivot means, a receptacle pivotally secured to the other of said first-mentioned rods and having a diametrically-extending opening therethrough receiving said cross rod, and a set screw in said receptacle operative to releasably lock said cross rod therein, whereby said tips may be releasably secured at a distance apart corresponding to the distance between the slots of a blind slat.

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