

June 28, 1960

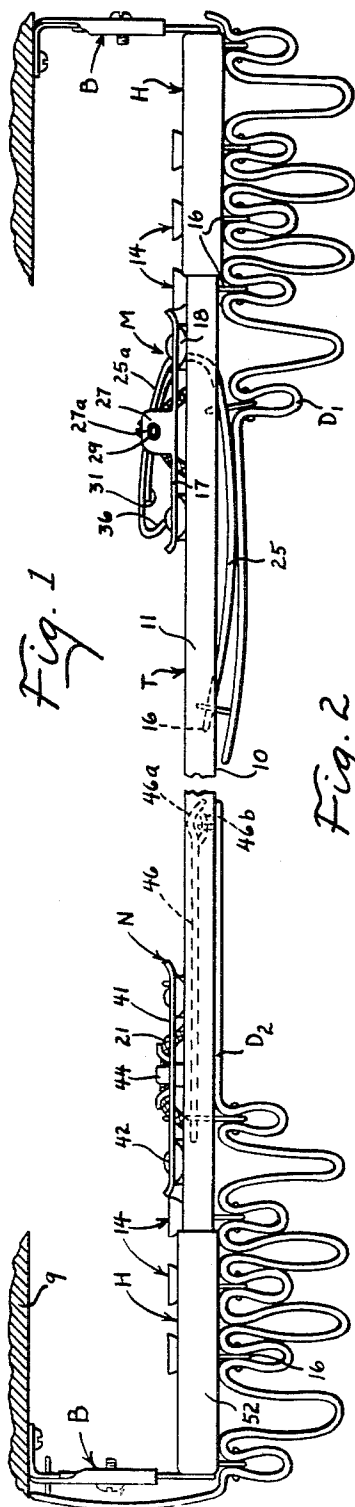
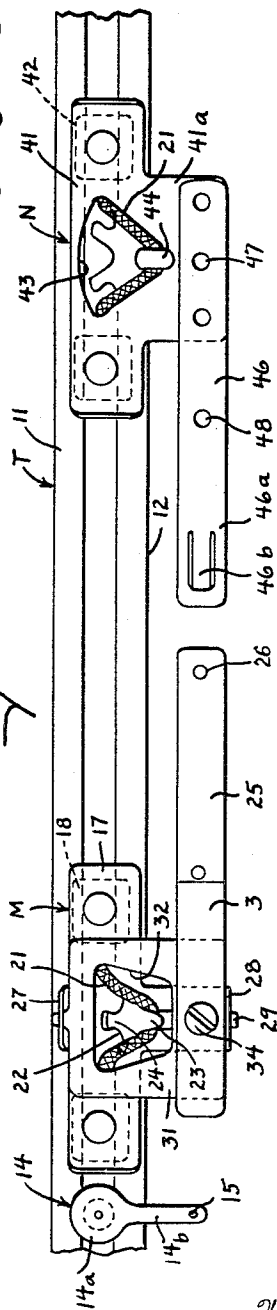
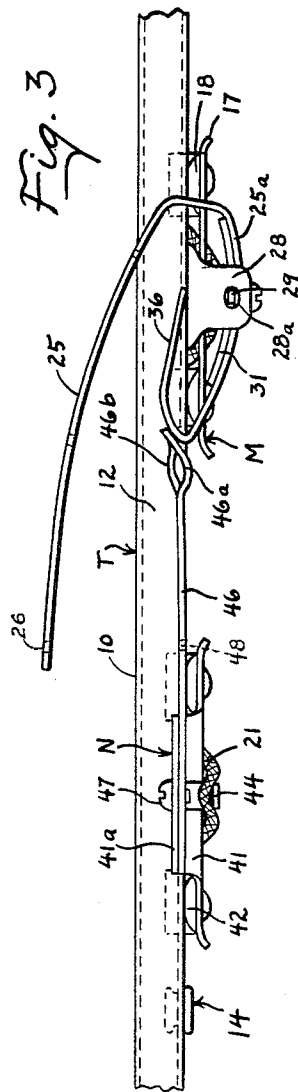
W. R. STEPHENS

2,942,659

DRAPERY FIXTURE

Filed June 9, 1958

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



Inventor

William R. Stephens

By *McLennan, Morshbach & Pillote*

Att'y's

June 28, 1960

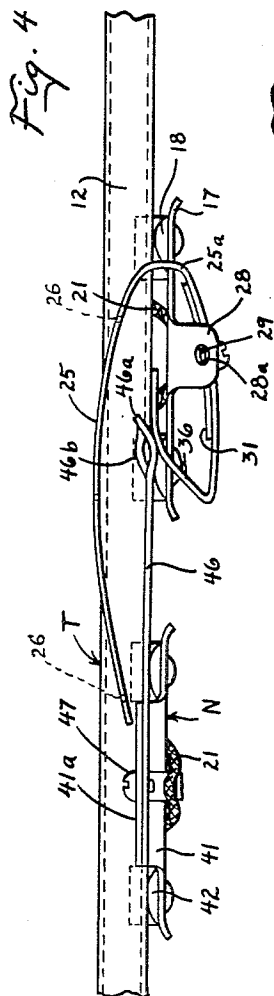
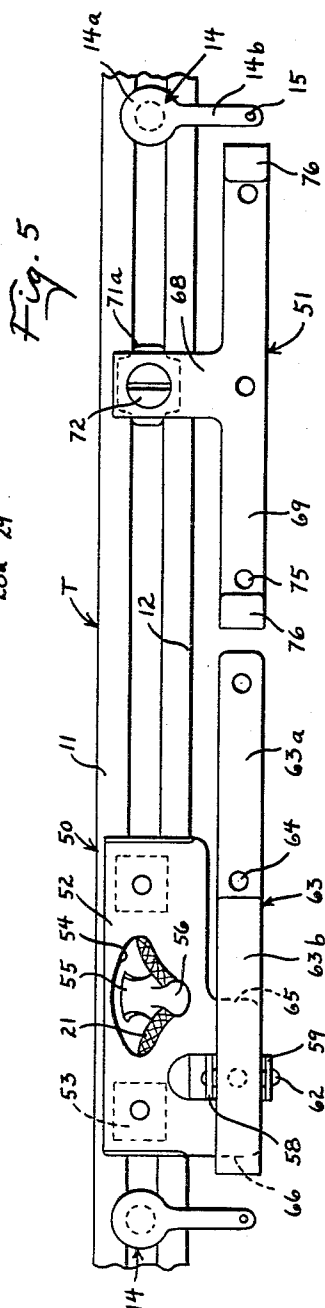
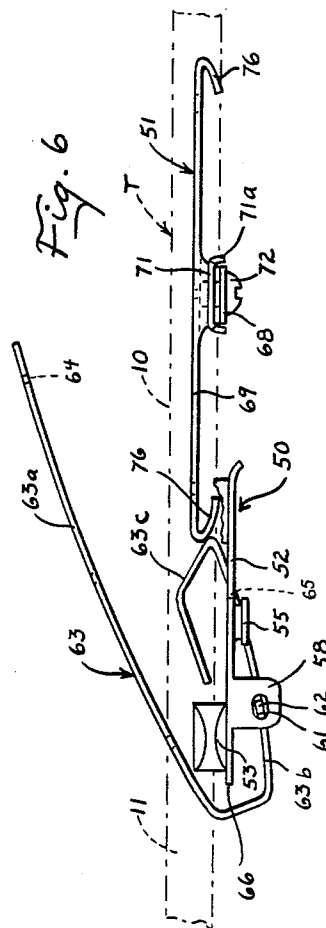
W. R. STEPHENS

2,942,659

DRAPERY FIXTURE

Filed June 9, 1958

2 Sheets-Sheet 2



Inventor
William R. Stephens
By McCanna, Morelock & Pillote
Atty's

1

2,942,659

DRAPERY FIXTURE

William R. Stephens, 915 East State St., Rockford, Ill.

Filed June 9, 1958, Ser. No. 740,776

11 Claims. (Cl. 160—126)

This invention relates to novel and useful improvements in drapery fixtures and particularly to improvements in drapery rod master slides.

The drapery rod master slides comprise a pair of drapery support arms mounted on a drapery rod for relative movement toward and away from each other. The support arms of each pair are generally laterally offset to permit the support arms of each pair to be moved into overlapping relation. However, the upper portion of the drapery carried by one support arm frequently engages the drapery or some part such as a drapery hook attached to the other support arm and prevents proper closing of the draperies. Moreover, even when the upper portions of the draperies carried by the support arms are moved into overlapping relation, the contiguous edges of the draperies frequently engage adjacent the lower portion thereof and prevent complete closing of the draperies.

The lateral spacing between the support arms of the master slides, heretofore required to enable movement of the same into overlapping relation, adversely affects the appearance of the draperies when the latter are closed and also when the latter are in an open position. Thus, when the upper edge of the drapery is viewed from a level below the upper edge thereof, the edge of the drapery carried by the forward support arm will appear to be higher than the upper edge of the drapery on the rear arm. Since the amount of this apparent misalignment will vary dependent on the position from which the drapery is viewed, it is apparent that this illusion cannot be corrected by merely adjusting the vertical position of the draperies on the respective support arms.

It is an important object of this invention to provide a drapery fixture which overcomes the aforementioned objections and facilitates movement of the edge of one drapery into overlapping relation with the edge of an adjacent drapery.

A more particular object of this invention is to provide a drapery fixture in which the master slide has a drapery support arm thereon which is movable laterally of the slide to a position spaced outwardly from the front side of the drapery rod, to facilitate movement of the draperies into overlapping relation, and which arm is thereafter movable toward the drapery rod to tightly close the draperies.

Another object of this invention is to provide a drapery fixture in which the master slide has a drapery support arm mounted thereon for horizontal swinging movement and which arm automatically swings outwardly from the front face of the drapery rod, as the slide is extended to close the draperies, and which is thereafter automatically swung back toward the drapery rod to tightly close the draperies, after the slide reaches its extended position.

Another object of this invention is to provide a drapery fixture in accordance with the foregoing object in which the support arm is automatically swung toward the drapery rod, as the drapery is retracted, so that the

2

drapery will be supported closely adjacent the track when the drapery is in its open position.

A further object of this invention is to provide a master slide in accordance with the foregoing objects which is of simple and economical construction, and which is reversible for either right hand or left operation.

These, together with various ancillary objects and advantages of this invention will be more readily appreciated as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a two-way drapery fixture embodying the improved master slide construction;

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary rear elevational view of the drapery fixture and showing the master slides;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary bottom view of the drapery fixture and showing the master slides in a position immediately prior to closing of the same;

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary bottom view of the drapery fixture and showing the master slides in their closed position;

Fig. 5 is a fragmentary rear elevational view of a modified form of drapery fixture; and

Fig. 6 is a top view of the master slide assembly of Fig. 5 with the drapery rod shown in phantom.

Reference is now made more specifically to the accompanying drawings wherein there is illustrated a drapery fixture including a track T having a C-shaped cross-section and including a front wall 10 and arched top and bottom walls 11 and 12 respectively. As best shown in Figures 2 and 5, the opposite side edges of the track are disposed in spaced parallel relation and define a guideway therebetween for slidably receiving the drapery slides. Track holders H are provided at each end of the track, to support the traverse cord sheaves, and are attached by mounting brackets B to the supporting surface 9. The track holders and mounting brackets may be of any conventional construction and further detailed description thereof is deemed unnecessary.

In the two-way traverse rod illustrated in Figures 1-4, a pair of master slides M and N are provided for supporting the draperies adjacent one edge thereof and for moving the same in relatively opposite directions along the track. In addition, a plurality of auxiliary slides 14 are also mounted between the opposed edges of the track T for independent movement therealong. As is conventional, the auxiliary slides 14 include an upper slide block portion 14a having a groove in the periphery thereof for receiving the opposed edges of the track, and a depending shank portion 14b having an opening 15 therein for receiving a conventional drapery hook 16.

The master slide M includes a slide plate 17 which overlies the rear of the track T and is slidably supported thereon by grooved slide blocks 18 which are received between the opposed edges of the track. As is conventional, the slide M is extended and retracted along the track T by means of a cord 21, which cord may be operatively connected to the slide in any desired manner. As shown in Figure 2, the slide plate 17 has an opening 22 provided therein and arranged to permit an intermediate portion of the cord 21 to be drawn therethrough. A tongue 23 is struck out from the slide plate intermediate the ends of the opening 22 to receive a bight portion of the cord 21. A second tongue 24 extends partially across the aperture 22 to prevent the bight portion of the cord 21 from accidentally slipping back into the track T, when it is released from the tongue 23.

A drapery support arm 25 is mounted on the slide M and, in accordance with the present invention, is sup-

ported thereon for limited horizontal swinging movement. Provision is made for swinging the arm outwardly away from the track as the slide is extended to facilitate movement of the adjacent edges of the draperies into overlapping relation and for thereafter swinging this arm toward the track to thereby tightly close the draperies. In addition, the arm is so arranged that when the slide is retracted, the arm is swung toward the track to support the edge of the drapery closely adjacent the track. Openings 26 are provided in the arm 25 to receive the conventional drapery hooks for supporting the leading edge of the drapery panel on the arm.

In the embodiment illustrated in Figs. 1-4, spaced upper and lower ears 27 and 28 are provided on the slide plate 17 and extend rearwardly therefrom. The ears are apertured at 27a and 28a respectively (see Figs. 1, 3 and 4) and pivotally receive the oppositely extending trunnions 29 on a support plate 31. As best shown in Figure 2, the support plate 31 is apertured as indicated at 32 to provide access to the draw cord opening 22 and hook 23 on the slide plate 17. As is apparent from Figs. 1 and 3, the support plate is arranged to engage the slide plate to limit swinging movement thereof between a position in which the arm 25 extends generally longitudinally of the track, as shown in Fig. 1, to a position in which the arm 25 is inclined outwardly from the track, as shown in Fig. 3.

The support plate 31 extends to a position below the track T and, as is apparent from Figures 1 and 3, is supported on the slide plate 17 for swinging movement about an axis laterally offset from the rear side of the track and which axis extends perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the track. The support arm 25 is attached to the plate 31 adjacent the lower edge thereof for horizontal swinging movement below the track T. The support arm 25 is normally disposed adjacent the plane of the front wall of the track and has a laterally offset mounting portion 25a attached to the support plate 31. In the specific embodiment illustrated, the arm 25 and the mounting portion 25a thereof are formed separate from the plate 31 and secured thereto by a screw fastener 34. In this manner, the support arm may be reversibly positioned on the plate 31 to enable use of the master slide M for either right hand or left hand operation. Obviously, the support arm and the mounting portion can be formed integrally with the plate 31, if desired.

As shown in Figure 1, one edge portion of a drapery D1 is affixed to the support arm 25 to be extended and retracted with the slide M, and intermediate portions of the drapery are supported by the hooks 16 on the auxiliary slides 14. As the master slide M is retracted toward the position shown in Figure 1, the drapery D1 tends to retard movement of the arm 25 with the slide and, since the pivot axis of the arm is laterally offset therefrom, the arm is urged in a clockwise direction as viewed in Figure 1 toward the track T. On the other hand, when the master slide M is extended, the drapery pulls on the arm 25 and tends to swing the latter in a counterclockwise direction as viewed in Figure 1 away from the track T to a position such as shown in Figure 3. Consequently, as the slide M moves towards its extended position, the free end of the support arm 25 is spaced laterally from the front of the track T so as to prevent the leading edge of the drapery D1 from engaging the other master slide or the drapery carried thereby.

In accordance with the present invention, provision is made for swinging the arm 25 back toward the track when the slide M reaches its extended position to thereby tightly close the drapery. For this purpose, there is provided a cam finger 36 which is disposed at the rear side of the support arm 25 and laterally offset therefrom. Conveniently, the cam finger is formed integrally with the mounting portion 25a of the support arm so as to be reversible therewith.

The other slide N also includes a slide plate 41 mounted

on guide blocks 42 for reciprocation along the track and has a cord opening 43 and a locking tongue 44 for receiving a bight portion of a different run of the traverse cord 21. The slide plate 41 has an offset portion 41a extending to a position below the track T and an arm 46 is rigidly attached to the offset portion 41a by the fastener 47. As is best shown in Figs. 3 and 4, the arm 46 extends from the slide N toward the slide M and has an angulated nose portion 46a disposed in the path of movement of the cam finger 36 to engage the latter when the arms 25 and 46 overlap to thereby swing the arm 25 toward the arm 46 and close the drapery. One or more openings 48 are provided in the arm 46 for receiving the conventional drapery hooks by means of which the drapery D2 is supported on the arm 46. The support for the drapery hook at the free end of the arm 46 is offset from the nose portion 46a, to prevent that drapery hook from engaging the cam finger 36 as the master slides move into overlapping relation. In the embodiment of Figs. 1-4, a loop 46b is struck out of the end of the arm 46 to provide a drapery hook support at the front side of the nose portion 46a. As will be noted, the cam finger 36 is inclined to the path of movement of the nose portion 46a and is cammed thereby in a counterclockwise direction, as viewed in Figs. 3 and 4, to swing the arm 25 toward the track T and close the overlapping edges of the drapery panels.

A modified form of master slide, designated 50, is illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6 applied to a one-way traverse rod. In some applications it is desired to maintain the edge of one drapery panel stationary and move the edge of a different panel into and out of overlapping relation with the stationary panel. In such applications, a fixed drapery support arm designated 51, is provided for supporting the stationary edge of one panel and for actuating the movable arm on the master slide 50.

As in the preceding embodiment, the master slide 50 includes a slide plate 52 mounted by slide blocks 53 on the track T. A cord opening 54 is formed in the plate 52 and has an upwardly extending tongue 55 intermediate the ends thereof for preventing accidental retraction of the bight portion of the cord 21 through the opening. The width of the slide plate 52, in the area of the cord opening 54, is appreciably less than in the embodiment of Figs. 1-3. Accordingly, the tongue 55 is made relatively wide, sufficient to permit at least a portion of the downwardly extending tongue 56 to be struck therefrom.

A pair of vertically spaced ears 58 and 59 are provided on the slide plate 52, at a level below the lower edge of the track T. In the form illustrated, the ears are formed integrally with the plate 52, it being apparent that the ears could be formed separate from the plate and secured thereto if desired. The upper ear 58 is struck out of the plate 52 and bent rearwardly therefrom, and the lower ear 59 is formed by a depending projection on the plate which is bent rearwardly of the plate is spaced relation to the upper ear. The ears are apertured, as shown at 61, and pintles 62 are formed on a strap 63 to pivotally support the strap on the ears.

One end of the strap 63 is curved upon itself to provide a drapery support arm portion 63a which is laterally offset from the mounting portion 63b and the pintles 62 and which projects therefrom in the direction in which the slide 50 moves toward its extended position. The other end of the strap 63 is curved upon itself in the opposite direction to provide a cam portion 63c which is disposed between the mounting portion 63b and the arm portion 63a.

As in the preceding embodiment, the edge of one drapery panel is attached to the arm 63a for movement therewith as by drapery hooks receivable in opening 64. As the slide 50 is extended to close the drapery, the drapery panel exerts a "drag" on the arm which causes the same to swing outwardly to the position shown in Fig. 6. The mounting portion 63b is arranged to engage

5

the edge 65 of the slide plate 52 to limit outward swinging movement. When the slide 50 is retracted, the drapery panel retards retraction of the arm and swings the same toward the track T. The mounting portion 63b is arranged to engage the edge 66 on the plate 52 to limit inward swinging movement of the drapery support arm.

The other drapery panel may be movably mounted on a master slide such as shown at N in Figs. 1-4 or on a stationary arm 51 as shown in Figs. 5 and 6. This arm is advantageously shaped in the form of an inverted T, the leg portion 68 of which is attached to the track and the arm portions 69 of which extend longitudinally of the track. The stationary arm is adjustably and removably secured to the track by a tapped plate 71 disposed inside the track and which receives the mounting screw 72. Flanges 71a on the plate extend outwardly of the track on opposite sides of the leg portion 68 to support the latter. Drapery hook openings 75 are formed in the arms 69, and the ends of the arms are curved rearwardly to define cam noses 76 for engaging the cam finger 63c on the slide 50. As is apparent, the T-shaped stationary arm is adapted for use with either right or left master slides.

The stationary arm 51 operates the swinging arm 63a on the master slide 50 in the same manner as the arm on the slide N operates the swinging arm 25 on the slide M. Thus, as the slide 50 is extended, the cam finger 63c thereon engages one of the cam noses 76 on the stationary arm, to thereby swing the arm 63 back toward the rod T. Since the cam nose 76 is spaced from the rear of the rod, the drapery hook at the end of the stationary arm 69 does not engage the cam finger 63c.

From the foregoing it is apparent that the swingable arms 25 and 63a, on the master slides M and 50 respectively, are automatically moved relative to the respective side plate, as an incident to reciprocation thereof along the track by the draw cord 21. As either of the aforementioned master slides are extended, the drapery causes the arm to swing outwardly away from the front of the track T to facilitate overlapping of the edges of the drapes carried by either a movable slide such as N or a stationary arm such as 51. After the drapes are moved into overlapping relation, the respective cam finger is operative to swing the movable arm back toward the track and tightly close the draperies. When closed, the overlapping portions of the draperies are in abutting contact so that the upper edges thereof do not appear to be misaligned. When the drapery is drawn open, the drapery causes the movable arm to swing toward the track so that the leading edge of the drapery is also disposed closely adjacent the track when the drapery is open.

I claim:

1. A drapery fixture comprising a track, a first drapery support arm mounted on the track, means on said first arm for supporting one drapery panel adjacent the edge thereof, a slide mounted on said track for reciprocation therealong toward and away from said first arm, a second elongated drapery support arm having means for supporting the edge of a different drapery panel, said second support arm being mounted on said slide for free horizontal swinging movement from a position extending generally longitudinally of the track to a position inclined outwardly therefrom, means for moving said slide along the track, and means responsive to movement of said second arm into overlapping relation to said first arm for swinging said second arm relative to said slide and against said first arm.

2. A drapery fixture for moving the edge of a first drapery panel into overlapping relation with the edge of a second drapery panel comprising, a track, a first drapery support arm mounted on the track, means on said first arm for supporting said second panel adjacent one edge thereof, a slide mounted on said track for movement therealong between a retracted position to an extended position adjacent said first arm, a drapery sup-

6

port member including a second arm for supporting said first drapery panel adjacent the front side of said track, means mounting said second arm on said slide for free horizontal swinging movement relative thereto about an axis offset rearwardly from the front side of said track to permit movement of the leading edge of said second arm toward and away from said front side of said track, means for moving said slide along the track whereby the drag of the first panel tends to swing the leading edge of the arm away from the front side of the track as the slide is extended, stop means limiting outward swinging movement of said second arm relative to said slide, and means operative in response to movement of said second arm into overlapping relation to said first arm for moving the second arm back toward said track to close the drapery panels.

3. The combination of claim 2 wherein said first drapery support arm is fixedly mounted on said track, said last-mentioned means including cam means on said first and second arms engageable when said arms are moved into overlapping relation.

4. The combination of claim 2 wherein said first drapery support arm is mounted on said track for movement therealong, said last-mentioned means including cam means on said first and second arms engageable when said arms are moved into overlapping relation.

5. A drapery fixture for moving the edge of a first drapery panel into overlapping relation with the edge of a second drapery panel comprising a track, first and second slides mounted at the rear of said track for movement therealong toward and away from each other, a first drapery support arm attached to said first slide and extending longitudinally of said track, means on said first arm for supporting one edge of said first panel adjacent the front side of said track, a second arm adapted to support said second panel and mounted on said second slide for free horizontal swinging movement about an axis laterally offset from the front of said track whereby the draper panel on the second arm draws the arm outwardly to a position inclined away from the front side of the track during extension of the second slide and pushes the arm back toward the track during retraction of the second slide, stop means limiting movement of said second arm relative to said second slide between a position disposed generally longitudinally of the track and a position inclined outwardly from the front side thereof at an acute angle, and cam means on said second arm engageable with said first arm for swinging the second arm back toward said track to close the drapery panels after said arms have moved into overlapping relation.

6. A drapery fixture for moving the edge of a first drapery panel into overlapping relation with the edge of a second drapery panel comprising a track, first and second slides mounted at the rear of said track for movement therealong toward and away from each other, a first drapery support arm attached to said first slide and extending longitudinally of said track, means on said first arm for supporting one edge of said first panel adjacent the front side of said track, means defining a pair of vertically spaced ears on said second slide extending rearwardly therefrom, a support mounted on said ears for free horizontal swinging movement about an axis disposed rearwardly of said slide, a second draper support arm on said support and laterally offset from the pivot axis thereof whereby the drapery panel on the second arm draws the same outwardly to a position inclined to the front side of the track as the second slide is extended and pushes the arm back toward the track as the second slide is retracted, stop means limiting movement of said second arm relative to said second slide between a position disposed generally longitudinally of the track and a position inclined outwardly from the front side of the track at an acute angle, and cam means on said support disposed rearwardly of said second arm and engageable

7

with said first arm for swinging the second arm toward the track to close the drapery panels after said arms have moved into overlapping relation.

7. The combination of claim 6 wherein one of said ears is disposed adjacent the upper edge of said second slide, the other of said ears being disposed below the lower edge of said track, said second arm being mounted on the support for swinging movement in a horizontal path disposed below said track.

8. The combination of claim 6 wherein said ears on said slide are both disposed below the lower edge of said track, said second arm being mounted on said support for swinging movement in a horizontal path disposed below said track.

9. A drapery fixture for moving the edge of a first drapery panel into overlapping relation with the edge of a second drapery panel comprising a track, first and second slides mounted at the rear of said track for movement therealong toward and away from each other, a first drapery support arm attached to said first slide and extending longitudinally of said track, means on said first arm for supporting one edge of said first panel adjacent the front side of said track, means defining a pair of vertically spaced ears on said second slide extending rearwardly therefrom, a movable drapery support member comprising an elongated horizontally disposed mounting portion, means attaching said mounting portion to said ears for free horizontal swinging movement about an axis disposed intermediate the ends of said mounting portion, a second support arm extending from one end of said mounting portion in lateral spaced relation to said mounting portion at the front side thereof and defining therewith a generally U-shaped member, stop means limiting movement of said second support arm between a position extending generally longitudinally of said track and

8

a position inclined to the front face of said track, and cam means on the other end of said mounting position disposed rearwardly of said second arm and engageable with said first arm for swinging the second arm toward the track to close the drapery panels after they have been moved into overlapping relation.

10. The combination of claim 9 wherein said cam means extends from said other end of said mounting portion toward said first-mentioned end.

11. A drapery fixture for moving the edge of one drapery panel into overlapping relation with the edge of a different drapery panel comprising a track, a first arm mounted on said track and extending longitudinally thereof below said track, means on said first arm for supporting one drapery panel adjacent one edge thereof, a slide mounted on said track for movement therealong toward and away from said first arm, a second arm mounted on said slide below said track for horizontal swinging movement relative thereto about an axis offset rearwardly of said track, stop means limiting movement of said second arm relative to said slide between a position extending generally longitudinally of said track and a position inclined outwardly from the front side thereof, cam means on said second arm disposed forwardly of said axis at the side of said axis adjacent said first arm for engagement with said first arm when said arms have moved into overlapping relation to swing said second arm against said first arm and close said slides.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

2,576,086	Werner et al.	Nov. 20, 1951
2,713,898	Hartmann	July 26, 1955
2,722,980	Wills	Nov. 8, 1955
2,736,373	Truesdale	Feb. 28, 1956