

**March 15, 1932.**

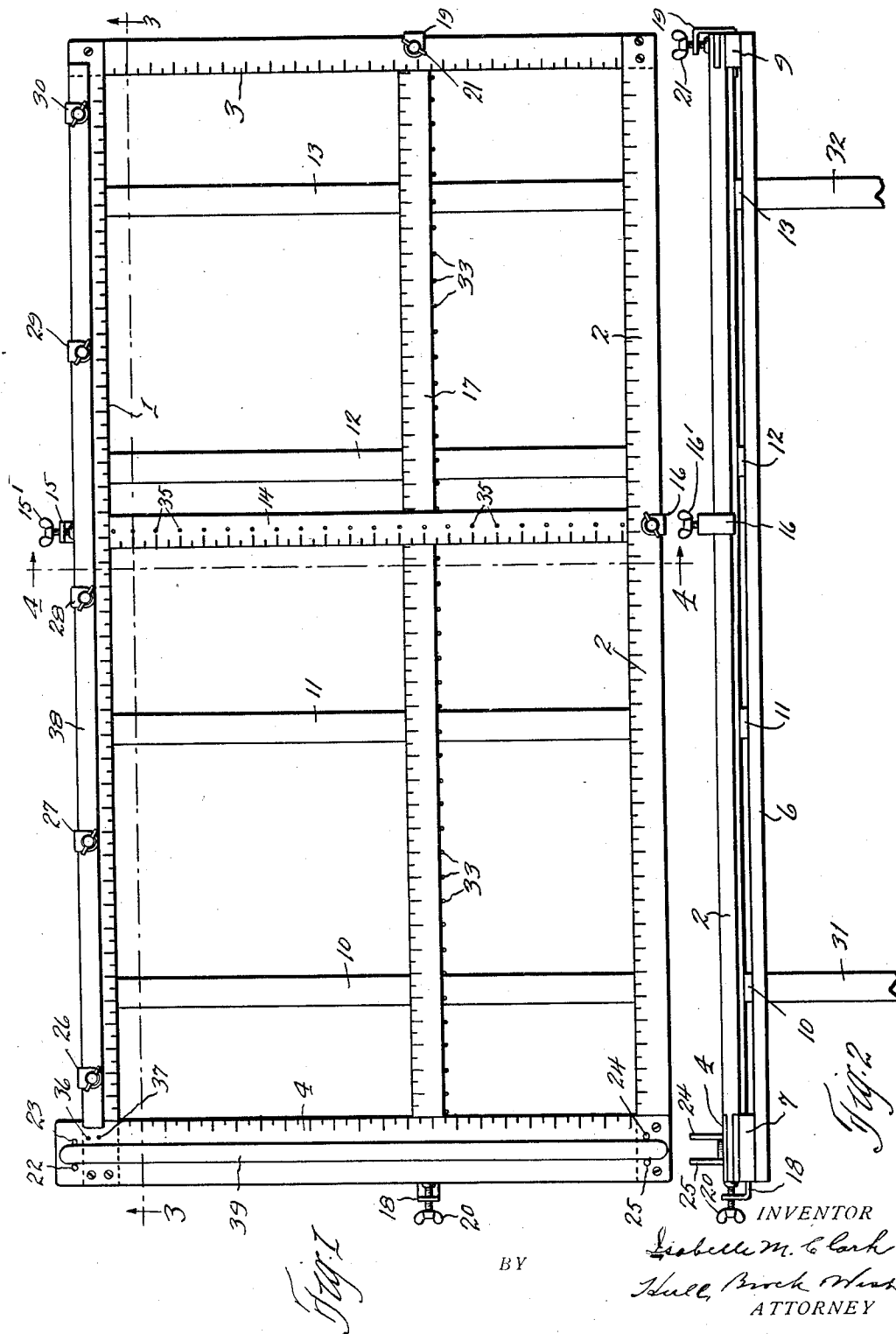
I. M. CLARK

**1,849,707**

# APPARATUS FOR STRETCHING CURTAINS

Filed May 23, 1929

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



March 15, 1932.

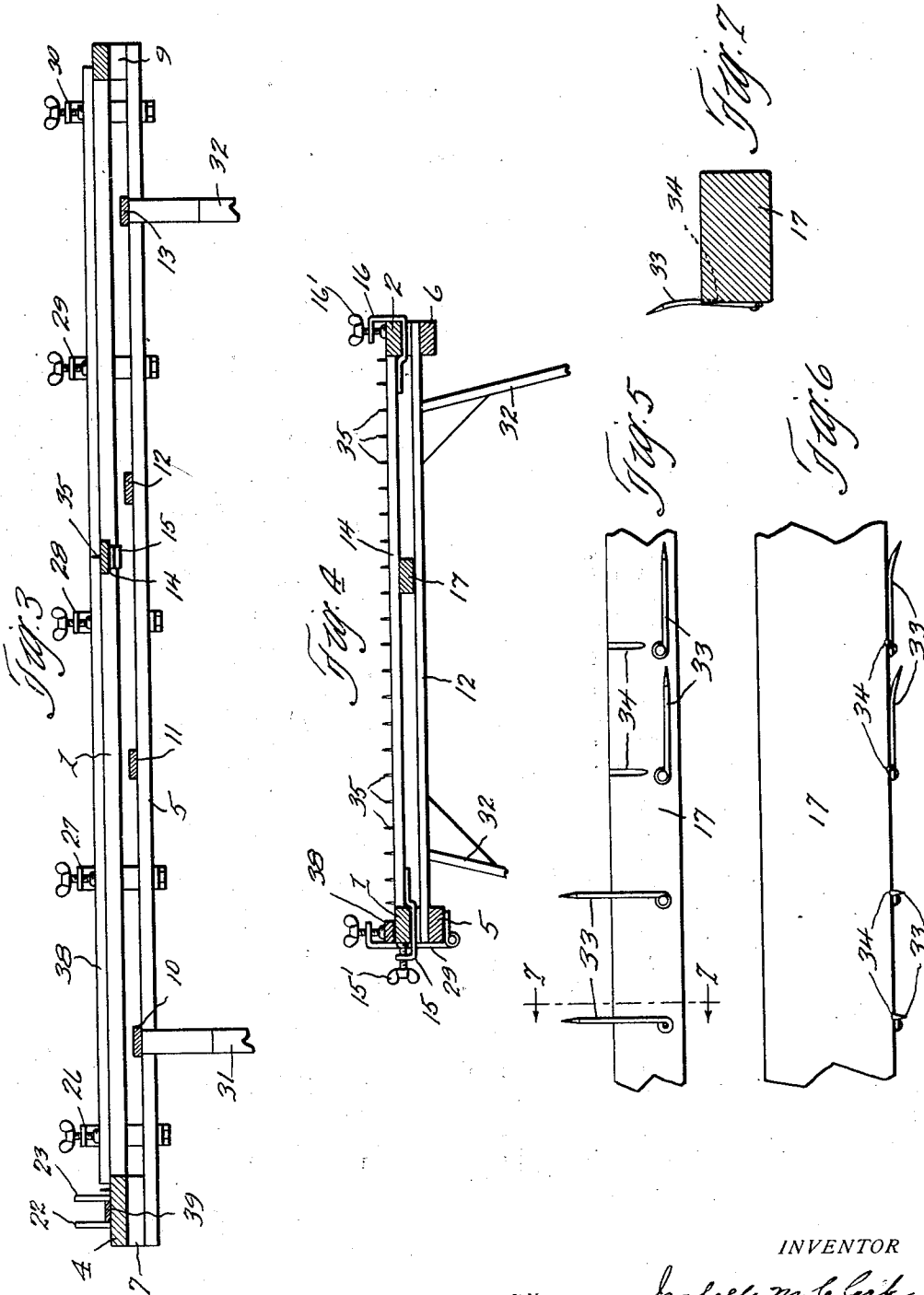
I. M. CLARK

1,849,707

APPARATUS FOR STRETCHING CURTAINS.

Filed May 23, 1929

2 Sheets-Sheet 2



INVENTOR

BY

Isabel M. Clark  
Hull, Brock With  
ATTORNEY

## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

ISABELLE M. CLARK, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO

## APPARATUS FOR STRETCHING CURTAINS

Application filed May 23, 1929. Serial No. 365,336.

This invention relates to a method and apparatus for stretching and drying curtains.

The main object of the invention is to provide a method and apparatus for stretching and drying curtains in which it is not necessary to pierce the front and bottom edges of the curtain with pins.

Another object of the invention is to provide a curtain stretcher of the character described which comprises a rectangular frame permanently secured together and having comparatively few parts which are readily assembled and disassembled; and which is well adapted for quantity production at comparatively low cost.

A further object of the invention is to provide a curtain frame of the character set forth which is provided at one end thereof with a portion adapted to receive and support the fringe portion of the curtain.

A further object of the invention is to provide a curtain frame which is adjustable for different size curtains and which is provided with means for stretching the bottom and front hems straight without pin holes and without causing undesirable scallops.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a curtain frame of the character described which is adapted to receive a plurality of curtains of the same size thereon simultaneously and which is also provided with means for supporting a curtain while the same is being secured to the frame.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a curtain stretcher adapted to be supported at such a height that the operator may use the same without bending over, the frame being capable of extensive adjustment to enable curtains of many different sizes to be stretched thereon.

Further and more limited objects of the invention will appear as the description proceeds and by reference to the accompanying drawings in which Fig. 1 is a top plan view of the preferred embodiment of my curtain stretcher; Fig. 2 is a view in side elevation with a portion of the legs broken away; Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1; Fig. 4 is a vertical sectional view on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1; and Figs. 5, 6 and

7 are detail views showing the pins for securing the curtains in place.

Referring now to the drawings, the device consists essentially of a rigid, rectangular frame comprising side bars 1 and 2 and end bars 3 and 4 which are secured together in any suitable manner as by screws. Disposed below the side bars 1 and 2 are a pair of bars 5 and 6 which are spaced from the bars 1 and 2 by means of blocks 7 and 9. The bars 1 and 2, the blocks 7, 8 and 9 and the side bars 5 and 6 may all be secured together by suitable screws or in any other manner desired. Connecting the bars 5 and 6 are a plurality of cross bars 10, 11, 12 and 13. Arranged within the frame and slidable longitudinally thereof is an adjustable end bar 14 which is secured in position by clamps 15 and 16 having thumb screws 15' and 16'. Extending longitudinally of the frame and adjusted laterally thereof is a side bar 17 which is secured to the frame by means of U-shaped clamps 18 and 19 disposed at opposite ends thereof and adapted to be secured in position by thumb screws 20 and 21. The end bar 4 of the frame is provided adjacent each end thereof with upstanding pins 22, 23, and 24, the purpose of which will hereinafter appear. Carried by the side bar 5 of the frame are a plurality of clamps 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 which are pivotally secured to the bar 5 as shown most clearly in Fig. 4. The frame is adapted to be supported in the horizontal position by means of suitable legs, two of which are shown at 31 and 32. The frame is provided about its periphery with a suitable scale preferably calibrated in inches. The adjustable end member 14 and the adjustable side member 17 are each provided on the upper surface thereof with a scale which is also preferably calibrated in inches. The side member 17 has secured along one side thereof a plurality of pins 33 which are adapted to be moved to the position shown in Fig. 5, the bar being provided with grooves 34 in which the pins engage when moved to the vertical position. The adjustable end bar 14 is provided with a plurality of pins 35 which project upwardly from the upper face thereof, as shown most clearly in Fig. 4.

When it is desired to place the curtain upon the frame, the frame is first set up in horizontal position. The curtain is then placed, crowded together lengthwise, upon the frame and rests upon the bars 10, 11, 12 and 13, with the lowermost or fringe edge resting upon the end bar 4. The front lower corner of the curtain is then secured over the upstanding pins 36 and 37, disposed adjacent one corner of the frame. The front edge of the curtain is then stretched along the surface of bar No. 1. The adjustable end bar 14 is then set at top of the curtain and secured. The front top corner of the curtain is then secured over one of the pins 35 in the bar 14. A side bar 38 is then placed over this edge of the curtain and secured in place by the clamps 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30. The bar 38 is corrugated on the under side thereof, as shown most clearly in Fig. 4, to permit circulation of air between the bar 38 and bar 1 to dry the curtain. This bar securely clamps one longitudinal edge of the curtain in place. The opposite longitudinal edge of the curtain is then secured to the pins 33 carried by the bar 17, which is placed on the frame about eighteen inches from bar 1. The operator then grasps the bar 17 with both hands, spread far apart, and moves the bar laterally on the frame until the curtain has been stretched as wide as is possible to stretch it, and then secures the bar in place by means of the thumb screws 20 and 21, this position being first determined by the scale on the end bars 3 and 4.

In order to stretch the curtain longitudinally or lengthwise, a bar 39 is inserted through or within the lower hem of a curtain and the opposite ends of the same are placed between the pins 22, 23 and 24, 25, as shown most clearly in Fig. 1. The opposite end of the curtain is then secured to the adjustable end bar 14 by fastening the same over the pins 35. The curtain will now be firmly secured in place and will be allowed to dry.

When the curtain is taken off the frame there will be no pinholes or undesirable scallops along the bottom end or front edge of the curtain, these edges being held in place by the bars 38 and 39 respectively and will be straight like when new. The narrow hem or back edge of the curtain will be pierced by the pins 33 and the upper hem of the curtain will be pierced by the pins 35, and due to the manner in which the curtain has been placed on the frame, there will be straight hems or edges on three sides of the curtain. The top end of the curtain will have pinholes and scallops, but they will not be noticeable in the fullness when the curtain is hung at the window on the curtain rod. The pinholes in the long, back edge of the curtain will not show, the pins having pierced the curtain about one-half inch from edge or very close to machine stitching holding the hem in place and

when gone over with a hot iron after the curtain is taken off the frame, the pinholes will be obliterated.

The end member 4 of the frame is of considerable width and provides a means for supporting the fringe of the curtain so that the same may be combed out straight while still wet or damp. The frame is quickly and easily adjustable to accommodate curtains of different sizes and there are no parts to add to or remove from the frame in order to stretch a very short or a very narrow curtain. The member extending through the bottom hem of the curtain and the clamping member extending along one edge of the curtain eliminates the difficulty and objection of pinholes and undesirable scallops along these edges.

Another advantage of my construction is that a number of curtains of the same dimensions can be stretched at the same time, the use of the pins on two edges of the curtain combined with the clamped bars on the other two edges making this possible, and the perforated and uneven underside of the bars allowing the curtain hems to dry quickly.

The manner of securing the curtain on the stretcher also tends to reduce the probability of tearing or ripping the curtain or the hands, and even should there be a small tear in the curtain before it is put on the frame, it will not be enlarged or stretched unduly.

Various changes may be made in the details of construction and in the manner of arranging and securing the various parts in position without departing from the spirit of my invention. It is also to be understood that the order in which the upper and lower hems of the curtains are secured in place may be varied without departing from the spirit of my invention. The embodiment of my invention herein disclosed is to be construed merely as illustrative and not in a limiting sense and it is understood that my invention is limited only in accordance with the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:—

1. In a curtain stretching frame, side and end bars, a sliding side bar laterally adjustable with respect to one of said side bars, a sliding end bar laterally adjustable with respect to one of said end bars, and cross bars under the other bars to prevent a curtain falling through said frame while being attached, said sliding bars being provided with a series of pins for holding a curtain by piercing therethrough, one end bar having means thereon for holding a strip passing through the hem of the curtain, and one side bar having means for clamping one edge of the curtain.

2. In a curtain stretching frame, side and end bars, a sliding side bar laterally adjustable with respect to one of said side bars, a sliding end bar laterally adjustable with

respect to one of said end bars, and cross bars under the other bars to prevent a curtain falling through said frame while being attached, said sliding bars being provided with  
5 a series of pins for holding a curtain by piercing therethrough, one end bar having means thereon for holding a strip passing through the hem of the curtain, and one side bar having means for clamping one edge of  
10 the curtain, said first means comprising two pairs of pins between which the ends of said strip are received.

3. In a curtain stretching frame, side and end bars, a sliding side bar laterally adjustable with respect to one of said side bars,  
15 a sliding end bar laterally adjustable with respect to one of said end bars, and cross bars under the other bars to prevent a curtain falling through said frame while being attached,  
20 at least one of said sliding bars being provided with a series of pins for holding a curtain by piercing therethrough, one end bar having means thereon for holding a strip passing through the hem of the curtain, and  
25 one side bar having means for clamping one edge of the curtain.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto affix my signature.

ISABELLE M. CLARK.