

June 14, 1949.

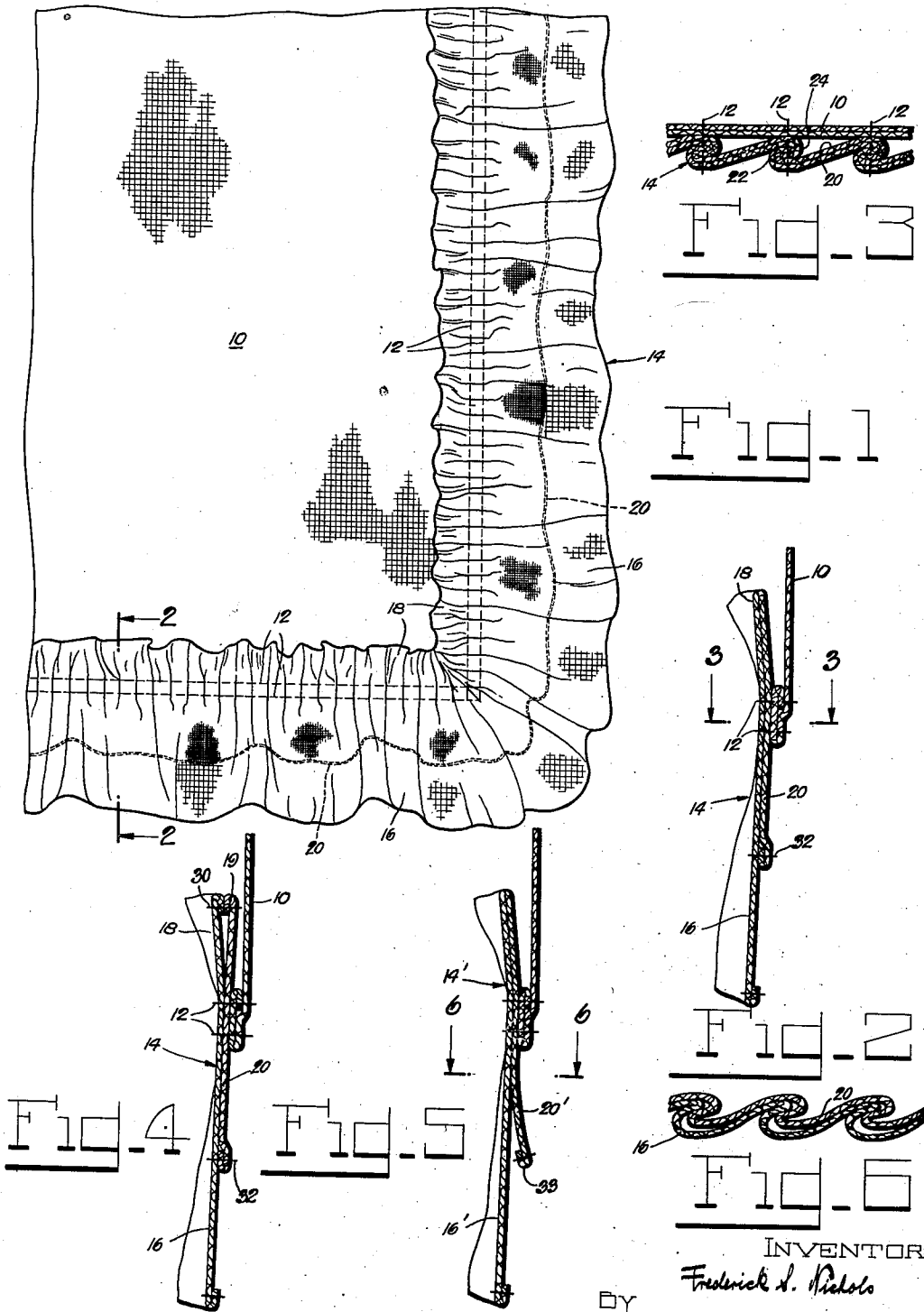
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2,472,956

RUFFLE CURTAIN

Filed Jan. 8, 1946

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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2 Sheets-Sheet 2

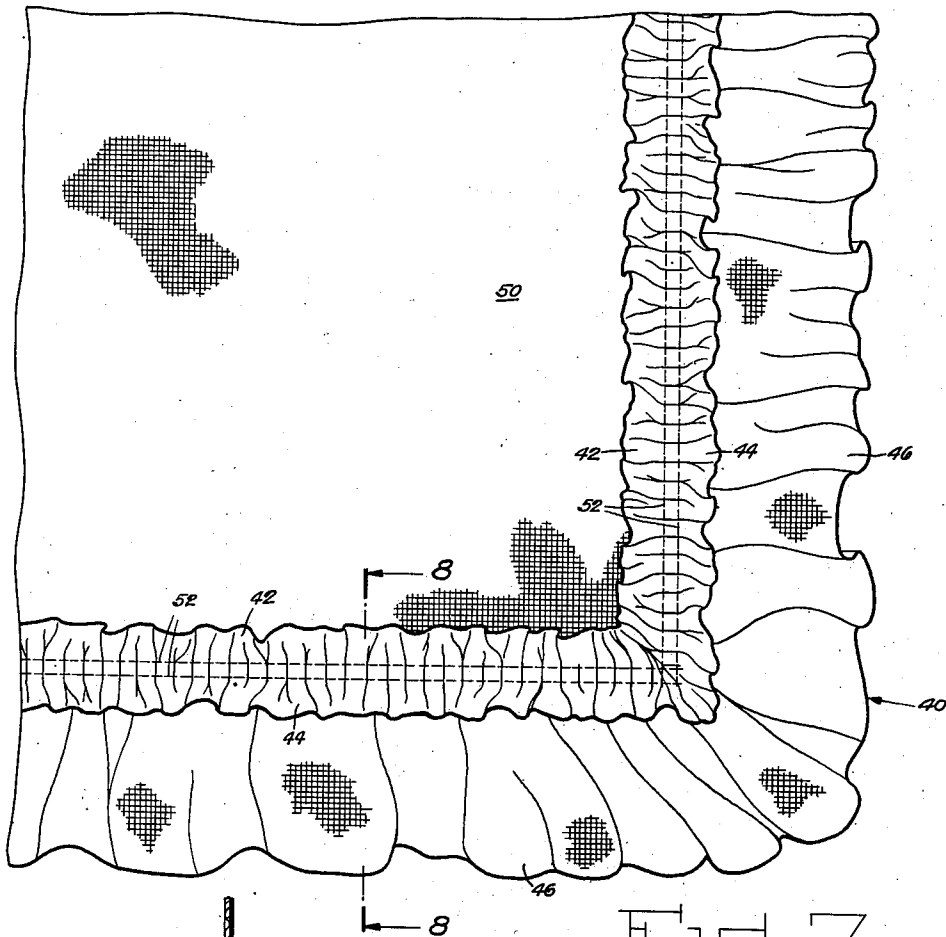


Fig. 7

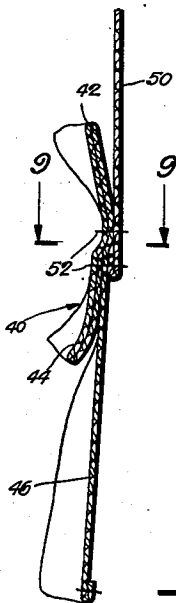
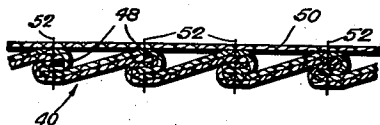


Fig. 9

Fig. 10

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,472,956

RUFFLE CURTAIN

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Application January 8, 1946, Serial No. 639,800

2 Claims. (Cl. 2—278)

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This invention relates to curtains of the type having a ruffle or ruffles along one or more edges thereof.

Housewives endeavoring to arrange the ruffles on a hanging curtain to their taste, become frequently vexed by the unwieldiness of these ruffles which defy their most determined efforts to pat them into the desired shape. This is particularly true of relatively wide ruffles along the top edge or along a falling edge of a curtain, which droop or fall in a more or less uncontrollable fashion and present an unsightly appearance. All this is due to the fact that the pleats of a ruffle force the latter into an irregularly undulating mass and impart to the same a staying power which is sufficient to resist any attempts at isolated reformation, and insufficient to prevent drooping or falling at random.

It is the primary object of the present invention to provide a curtain with a ruffle or ruffles, which may readily be patted by hand into, and will retain, any shape, according to one's taste, and which will not droop at random anywhere on the hanging curtain.

This and other objects of the present invention are accomplished by reinforcing the ruffle throughout a part of its lateral expanse, starting from its attachment to an edge of the curtain. To this end, the pleats of the ruffle are interengaged with pleats of a reinforcement band and the interengaged pleats are secured to the curtain by stitching in the customary manner, whereby the ruffle and band are held in more or less loose interengagement for some distance away from the stitching. The portions of the ruffle and band thus interengaged so reinforce the rest of the ruffle that the latter may be molded or patted by hand into any desired shape, even where the pleats tend to draw the ruffle into another disposition. The additional staying power imparted to the ruffle by the interengaged band is furthermore so great that the ruffle does not droop or fall at random along a falling edge of a curtain, but remains erect.

The invention will be more clearly understood from the following description in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a fragmentary view of a ruffle curtain embodying the present invention;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged section through a ruffled edge of the curtain, taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary section taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

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Figs. 4 and 5 are sections similar to Fig. 2, but showing modified ruffle constructions;

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary section taken on the line 6—6 of Fig. 5;

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary view of a ruffle curtain embodying the present invention in a modified manner;

Fig. 8 is an enlarged fragmentary section through a ruffled edge of the curtain shown in Fig. 7, the section being taken on the line 8—8 of Fig. 7; and

Fig. 9 is a fragmentary section taken on the line 9—9 of Fig. 8.

Referring to the drawings, and particularly to Figs. 1 to 3 thereof, the reference numeral 10 designates the body of a curtain which may be of any suitable material such as lace, for instance. Secured by spaced lines of stitching 12 to one or more edges of the curtain body 10 is a ruffle 14 which may also be of lace material. The ruffle 14 has a skirt portion 16 and a head portion 18 on opposite sides of the stitching 12, the material of the ruffle 14 being pleated in the customary manner where secured to the curtain body by the stitching 12.

Fig. 1 shows a characteristic ruffle in which the skirt portion 16 is considerably wider than the head portion 18, and it is this relatively wide skirt portion 16 which usually droops at random and defies all efforts to pat it into a desired shape. To overcome this deficiency of the skirt portion of a ruffle, the present invention contemplates reinforcement of the same through a portion of its lateral expanse. To this end, there is provided a reinforcement band 20, preferably of the same material as the ruffle 14, which is pleated together with the ruffle 14 so that the pleats of both are interengaged between, and secured to the curtain body 10 by, the lines of stitching 12, as best shown in Fig. 3. Since the pleats 22 and 24 of the ruffle 14 and the reinforcement band 20, respectively, are interengaged where they are secured to the curtain body 10, it follows that the ruffle and the band remain more or less loosely interengaged for some distance away from the lines of stitching 12, whereby substantially the entire ruffle 14, and particularly the skirt portion 16 thereof, is reinforced to the extent where the same will no longer droop at random and will retain substantially the shape imparted to it by patting.

In Fig. 2, the ruffle 14 and the band 20 are made from a single piece of material, the band 20 being formed by folding back part of the material of the ruffle 14. The band 20 may also be a separate piece, secured to the inner edge 19

of the ruffle 14 by stitching 30, as shown in Fig. 4. The band 20 is in either case of less width than the ruffle 14, and the outer edge of the band 20 may be sewed to the skirt portion 16 of the ruffle 14 by stitching 32 (Figs. 2 and 4). Fig. 5 shows a ruffle construction which is substantially like that shown in Fig. 2, except that the outer edge 33 of the reinforcement band 20¹ is not sewed to the skirt portion 16¹ of the ruffle 14¹, but is left free.

Fig. 6 illustrates the somewhat loose, yet positive, interengagement of the ruffle skirt and reinforcement band at some distance away from the stitching by which they are secured to the curtain body. This interengagement of the ruffle skirt and reinforcement band at points more or less remote from the lines of stitching 12 is characteristic not only of the ruffle construction shown in Fig. 5, but of the ruffle constructions shown in Figs. 2 and 4 as well. Evidently, the superposed ruffle skirt and reinforcement band will, beyond the stitching 12, separate or open up more or less as shown in Fig. 6, even if the outer edge of the reinforcement band is sewed to the ruffle skirt as shown in Figs. 2 and 4.

The reinforced ruffle skirt, be it of any of the constructions shown in Figs. 2, 4 and 5, will readily yield to patting and easily retain the shape imparted to it. Shaping the ruffle skirt is particularly easy and effective if the same is patted in the reinforced portion thereof and close to the stitching 12, for the closer the ruffle skirt and band interengage, the more readily may they be reformed thereat and the more firmly will they retain their shape and stiffen the remainder of the ruffle skirt against random displacement. The ease with which the reinforced ruffle may thus be patted into any desired shape and the firmness with which it retains any shape into which it has been molded by patting, are due to the fact that the band extends only part way across the expanse of the ruffle skirt. If the band would extend all the way across the expanse of the ruffle skirt, the latter would be too stiff and unwieldy for ready and lasting reformation.

Inasmuch as the reinforcement band is interposed between the ruffle and the body of the curtain, and since it extends only part way across the lateral expanse of the ruffle, it does not appear to the eye so much as a conspicuous reinforcement band, but instead lends to the ruffle a very pleasing two-tone effect as indicated in Fig. 1. Evidently, the meshes of the material appear to the eye more closely spaced where the material is superposed than where it is in a single layer.

The ruffle construction shown in Figs. 7 and 8 is somewhat of the order of the ruffle construction shown in Fig. 5, both relating to double skirt ruffles. The construction shown in Figs. 7 and 8 has a narrow skirt portion overlying a wide skirt

portion, whereas the construction shown in Fig. 5 has a narrow skirt portion underlying a wide skirt portion. The ruffle 40 shown in Figs. 7 and 8 consists preferably of a single piece of material which is folded as shown in the latter figure to provide the head portion 42 and the skirt portions 44 and 46. The ruffle 40 is pleated at 48 (Fig. 9) and secured to the body 50 of the curtain by spaced lines of stitching 52 in the conventional manner. The pleats 48 of the skirt portions 44 and 46 are interengaged between the lines of stitching 52 as shown in Fig. 9, wherefore these skirt portions also interengage for some distance away from the stitching 52. Hence, the ruffle 40 is as readily and lastingly reformable as the ruffles shown in Figs. 2, 4 and 5.

I claim:

1. A ruffle on a curtain, comprising a strip pleated intermediate its edges and secured with its pleats to the curtain by stitching, and a band formed by a marginal portion of said strip folded back upon the latter, said band having pleats interengaged with, and secured to the curtain by the same stitching as, the pleats of said strip, and extending outwardly beyond said stitching only part way across the lateral expanse of said strip.

2. A ruffle on a curtain, comprising a strip pleated intermediate its edges and secured with its pleats to the curtain by stitching, and a band formed by a marginal portion of said strip folded back upon the latter and interposed between said strip and curtain, said band having pleats interengaged with, and secured to the curtain by the same stitching as, the pleats of said strip, and extending outwardly beyond said stitching only part way across the lateral expanse of said strip.

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