Aug. 5, 1952 E. P. BIXER 2,605,830

CURTAIN CONSTRUCTION

Filed Nov. 6, 1951

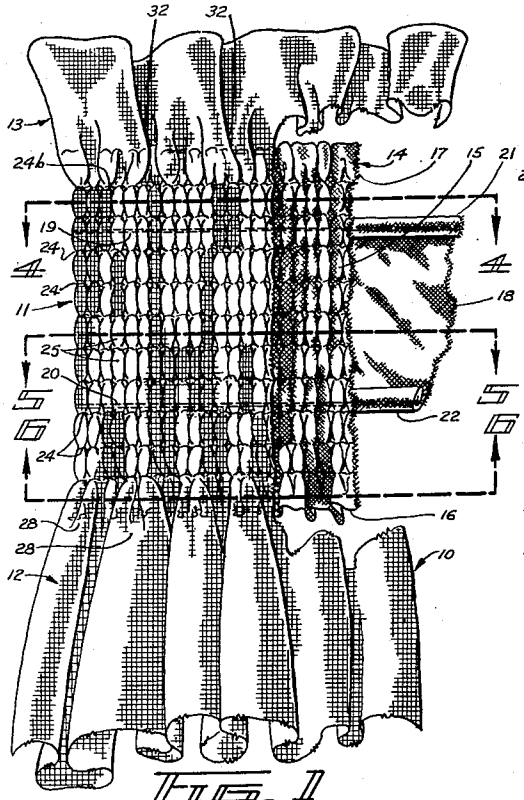


FIG. 1

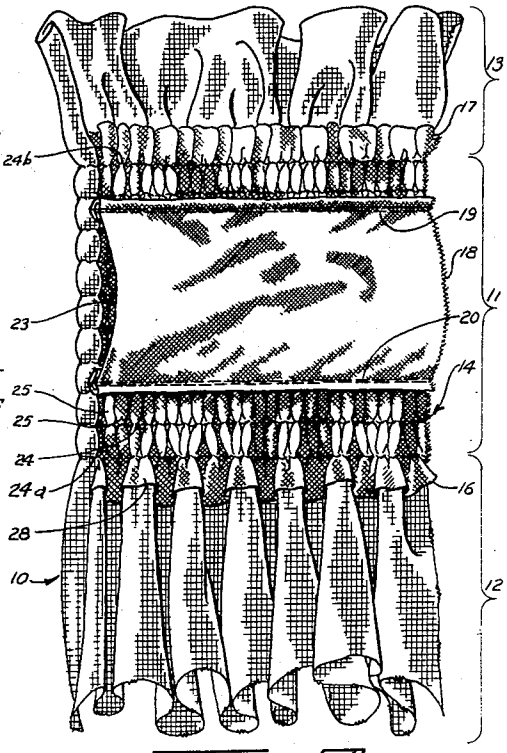


FIG. 3

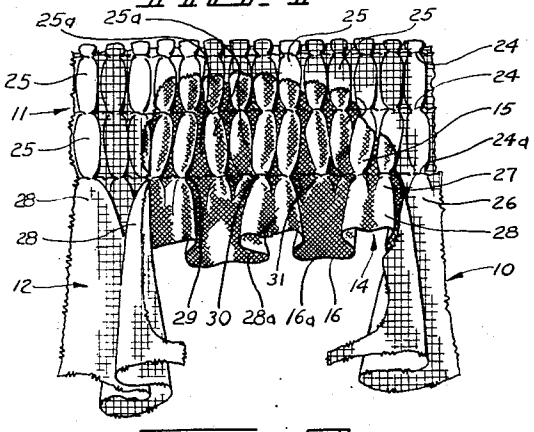


FIG. 2

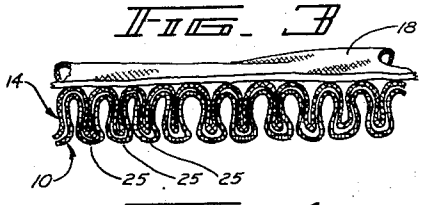


FIG. 4

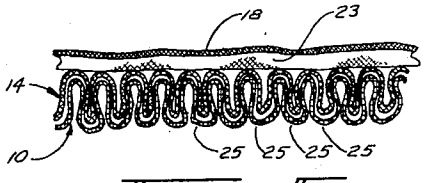


FIG. 5

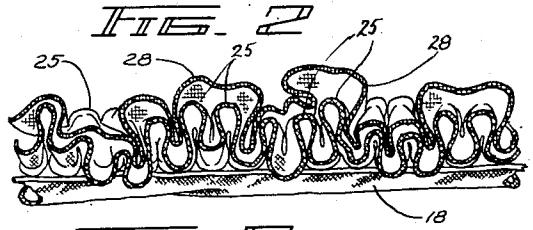


FIG. 6

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CURTAIN CONSTRUCTION

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8 Claims. (Cl. 160—348)

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This invention relates to curtain construction, more particularly to curtains that have ruffled or gathered formations when operatively hung in place.

When it is desired to create a ruffled effect in a conventional curtain slidably suspended from a curtain rod, the entire curtain is manually pushed outwardly to cause the heading section to slide along the rod, thereby contracting the curtain and producing folds both in the heading and the body of the curtain therebelow. Unless considerable caution and skill are employed in this operation, there results uneven fold formations, producing an unsightly effect; and to avoid this undesirable condition it is generally necessary carefully to manipulate both the contracted heading and body portion so that all the separate folds will be of substantially equal proportions. Furthermore, the desired ruffled effects of the body portion of such conventional curtains can only be obtained by a sliding and contracting movement of the curtain heading, thereby leaving a gap at the top of the window and reducing the curtain-framing effect where the heading has been contracted.

It is primarily within the contemplation of my invention to provide a curtain construction in which ruffled or folded effects are produced in the body of the curtain, without the disadvantages above mentioned. More specifically, it is an object of my invention to enable a curtain suspended from a curtain rod or other support to have fold formations therein without the need to slidably move the curtain heading along its support. And in this aspect of my invention it is a further object to enable all the separate fold formations to be of similar proportions, whereby a pleasing uniform effect is obtained, without the skill and effort that are required to produce similar uniformity in conventional curtains.

It is another object of my invention to provide a curtain having a shirred or ruffled heading in its fully extended position, and a body portion of predetermined fold effects when the heading is in said extended condition. In this aspect of my invention it is a further object to enable said body portion to be maintained in its folded condition, by means of a novel shirred backing which also serves as a stiffening means for the shirred heading. And it is within my contemplation to maintain said backing in its shirred reinforcing condition by sheet means which serve the additional function of a curtain rod pocket.

It is my objective to provide a curtain construction having the features above-mentioned and

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which is capable of ready fabrication on a mass production basis.

Other objects, features and advantages will appear from the drawings and the description hereinafter given.

Referring to the drawings,

Figure 1 is a fragmentary front view of a preferred form of my invention, portions being removed for clarity.

Figure 2 is an enlarged fragmentary view of Figure 1, a portion being removed to show the relationship between the front curtain panel and backing sheet.

Figure 3 is a rear view of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is an enlarged semi-diagrammatic section of Figure 1 taken along line 4—4.

Figure 5 is an enlarged semi-diagrammatic section of Figure 1 taken along line 5—5, and

Figure 6 is an enlarged semi-diagrammatic section of Figure 1 taken along line 6—6.

In the form illustrated, the structure of my invention includes a front curtain panel 10 comprising a heading section 11, a body section 12 and a top section 13. Disposed against and confronting the said heading section 11, and preferably at the rear thereof, is the backing sheet 14, said sheet comprising an upper portion 15, a lower skirt 16 and, in the particular embodiment shown, an upper skirt 17. Secured to the said backing sheet 14, preferably at the rear thereof, is the elongated strip of substantially inelastic material 18, said strip being secured to the backing sheet preferably by two lines of stitching 19 and 20 adjacent the upper and lower edges 21 and 22 thereof, respectively. The arrangement is such as to leave an open-ended pocket 23 extending transversely across the curtain panel along the entire transverse length of the heading 11, the pocket being formed by the facing walls of the backing sheet and the said strip, and the said upper and lower lines of stitching 19 and 20.

The said heading section 11 and the said backing sheet 14 are secured together by a plurality of spaced, substantially horizontal lines of stitching 24, the said upper portion 15 of the sheet and the heading section 11 being shirred together into a plurality of preferably closely spaced, substantially vertical folds 25, the said lines of stitching 24 maintaining the double layer of said backing and heading in said shirred condition. The upper portion 26 of the body section 12 of the curtain panel 10 and the upper portion 27 of the lower skirt 16 are secured together at the lowermost line of stitching 24a, and they are

folded together at intervals greater than the intervals between the points defining the said folds 25. In other words, the folds 28 that are thus formed in both the body portion 12 of the curtain and the said skirt 16 are, in the preferred form illustrated, considerably wider than the said folds 25, said folds 28 being formed at separated points such as 29, 30 and 31 on lowermost line of stitching 24a, said points being spaced at intervals formed by more than one of the folds 25. For example (Fig. 2), the points 29 and 30 defining the fold 28a in the body of the curtain are separated by folds 25a of the said heading section. The arrangement is hence such that whereas there are a plurality of closely spaced folds in the double layer of heading section 11 and upper portion 15 of the backing, to produce a shirred effect, relatively larger folds are formed in the body portion 12 of the curtain panel, such larger folds beginning substantially at the level of lowermost line of stitching 24a. The skirt 16 serves as a backing for the folded portions at the top of body portion 12, whereby the folds are relatively stiff at such region and gradually extend downwardly in comparatively straight and uniform fold formations. Since the lowermost edge 16a of the skirt 16 is not attached to the body of the curtain, there is no interference with the continuity of said fold formations.

It is to be noted that the said rear strip 18, being preferably inelastic, serves as restraining means for holding the shirred arrangement of the heading section and backing against being pulled flat by an accidental lateral outward pull. In other words, should a pull be inadvertently applied to increase the tension in the stitching 24, the said strip 18 will resist such pull and prevent a fracturing of said stitching. At the same time, the pocket formed by said rear strip 18 permits the entry therein of a conventional curtain rod.

In the form illustrated, the front curtain panel 10 also contains a top portion 13 which is attached to the upper skirt 17 at the uppermost line of stitching 24b. The arrangement is hence such that a plurality of substantially vertical folds 32 are formed at the lower portion of said top portion 13 and skirt 17, such folds being also spaced at intervals greater than those of the folds 25. The backing action of upper skirt 17 of the backing sheet 14 creates a stiffening of the fold portions 32, thereby enabling such folded portions to continue upwardly along the said top portion 13 of the curtain, in the manner aforesaid.

From the foregoing description, it will be observed that the curtain construction of my invention comprises a front curtain panel having several sections, to wit, the heading section 11 with closely spaced folds, the body section 12 with relatively widely spaced folds, and the top section 13 with similarly widely spaced folds. The respective lower and upper skirts 16 and 17 of the backing sheet 14 serve as stiffening means to maintain the folds 28 and 32 in their folded positions at the said lines of stitching 24a and 24b, thereby preventing any break in the continuity of said fold formations, and accordingly enhancing the general appearance of the curtain. The upper portion 15 of the backing sheet 14 serves the purpose of giving rigidity to the heading section 11, thereby also helping to maintain the shirred effect of said heading section. And the rear strip 18 reinforces the double layer of heading section and backing sheet, and serves not only to hold the said double layer against being flattened out by an inadvertent outward pull, but also serves as a pocket for a conventional curtain rod.

In the said curtain construction of my invention, the attractively shirred heading section 11 may at all times be maintained in its fully extended position on a curtain rod, and the body section 12 of the curtain will nevertheless be folded into attractive substantially vertical fold formations. In other words, there is no need, as in conventional curtains, to draw back the heading section 11 to contract the curtain, and thereafter carefully to manipulate the independent sections thereof, in order to form fold formations in the body of the curtain. These fold formations, in the structure of my invention, are part of the finished curtain construction, in accordance with a predetermined spacing thereof, and no manipulation whatsoever is required in order to produce the desired folds extending downwardly along the length of the curtain. It is also apparent that my curtain above-described is made by conventional stitching and folding means, and hence can readily be produced on a mass production basis.

In the above description, the invention has been disclosed merely by way of example and in preferred manner; but obviously many variations and modifications may be made therein. It is to be understod, therefore, that the invention is not limited to any specific form or manner of practicing same, except insofar as such limitations are specified in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In a curtain construction, a front curtain panel having a heading section and a body section therebelow, and a backing sheet; said backing sheet having an upper portion thereof disposed against said heading section and a skirt extending therebelow and adjacent the upper portion of the said body section adjoining the heading section, the heading section and the said upper portion of the backing sheet being shirred together into a plurality of substantially vertical folds, the said upper portion of the body section and the said skirt being folded at intervals greater than the intervals between the said folds in said heading section.

2. In a curtain construction, a front curtain panel having a heading section and a body section therebelow, and a backing sheet; said backing sheet having an upper portion thereof disposed against said heading section and secured thereto by a plurality of substantially horizontal lines of stitches, the sheet also having a skirt extending below the lowermost of said lines, the heading section and the said upper portion of the backing sheet being shirred together into a plurality of substantially vertical folds, the upper portion of the body section and the upper portion of said skirt being secured together at said lowermost line of stitching into a plurality of substantially vertical folds.

3. In a curtain construction, a front curtain panel having a heading section and a body section therebelow, a backing sheet and a strip of sheet material attached to said backing sheet; said backing sheet having an upper portion thereof disposed against the back of said heading section and a skirt extending therebelow and adjacent the upper portion of the said body section adjoining the heading section, the heading section and the said upper portion of the backing sheet being shirred together into a plurality of closely spaced substantially vertical folds, the said upper portion of the body sec-

tion and the said skirt being secured together into a plurality of substantially vertical folds, and stitching means securing said strip to said backing sheet along two spaced lines and along substantially the entire length of said backing sheet, whereby an open-ended pocket is formed adapted to receive a curtain rod.

4. In a curtain construction, a front curtain panel having a heading section and a body section therebelow, a backing sheet and a strip of sheet material attached to said backing sheet; said backing sheet having an upper portion theerof disposed against said heading section and secured thereto by a plurality of substantially horizontal lines of stitches, the sheet also having a skirt extending below the lowermost of said lines, the heading section and the said upper portion of the backing sheet being shirred together into a plurality of substantially vertical folds, the upper portion of the body section and the upper portion of said skirt being secured together at said lowermost line of stitching into a plurality of substantially vertical folds, said intervals being defined by points separated by a plurality of the said vertical folds of said heading section and backing sheet, and means for securing said strip to said backing sheet and heading section along two spaced parallel lines extending substantially along the entire length of said backing sheet, whereby an open-ended pocket is formed adapted to receive a curtain rod, said strip being of inelastic material, whereby it serves as restraining means against a flattening out of said shirred-together heading section and backing sheet.

5. A curtain construction comprising a front curtain panel having a heading section, a body section therebelow and a top section thereabove, a backing sheet and a strip of sheet material attached to said backing sheet; said backing sheet having an upper portion thereof disposed against the back of said heading section, and an upper and a lower skirt extending above and below said heading section, the heading section and the said upper portion of the backing sheet being shirred together into a plurality of substantially vertical folds, the portions of the said body section above and below said heading section being attached to portions of the said upper and lower skirts and formed with said skirts into a plurality of substantially vertical folds, and securing means attaching said strip

to said backing sheet along two spaced lines and along substantially the entire length of said backing sheet, whereby an open-ended pocket is formed adapted to receive a curtain rod.

6. A curtain construction comprising a front curtain panel having a heading section and a body section therebelow, a backing sheet of relatively stiff material confronting said heading section and having a depending skirt confronting the upper portion of said body section, said heading section and said backing section being shirred together to form said heading section into a group of vertical folds respectively reinforced by the adjacent folds of said backing sheet, said skirt and upper portion of said body section being shirred together to form said body section into a further group of vertical folds reinforced at the upper ends thereof by the adjacent folds of said skirt, thereby causing said body section to be maintained in continuous and comparatively straight downwardly extending folds.

7. A curtain construction according to claim 6, including a top section extending upwardly from said heading section, and a top skirt extending upwardly from said backing sheet and confronting the lower portion of said top section, said top section and said top skirt being shirred together to form said top section into a group of vertical folds reinforced at the lower ends thereof by the adjacent folds of said top skirt, thereby causing said top section to be maintained in continuous and comparatively straight upwardly extending folds.

8. A curtain construction according to claim 6, further provided with a reinforcing strip superposed upon said backing sheet, and stitching means attaching said reinforcing strip to said shirred-together heading and backing sheets, whereby said sheets are restrained against being flattened out.

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REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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