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METHOD OF CLEANING AND FINISHING DRAPES

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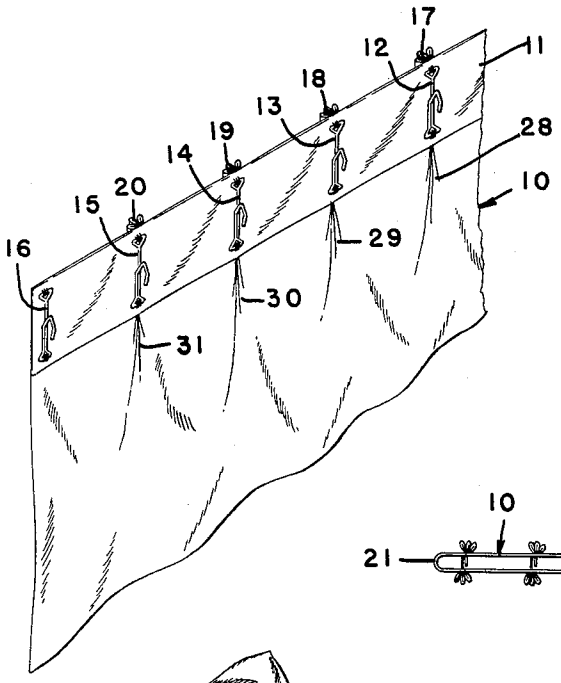


FIG. 1

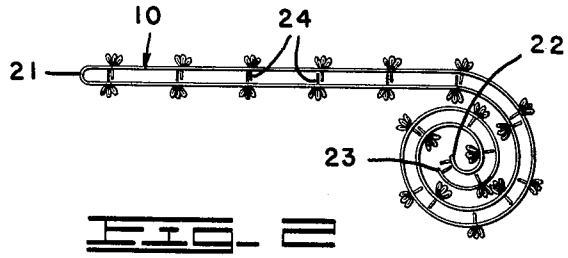


FIG. 2

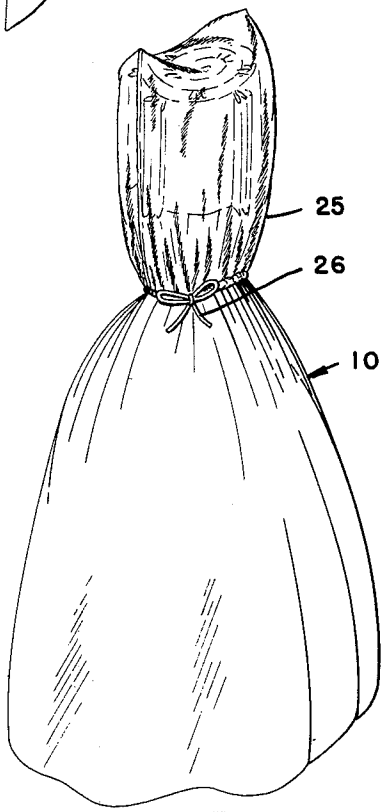


FIG. 3

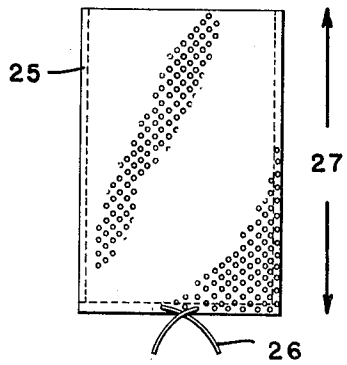


FIG. 4

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METHOD OF CLEANING AND FINISHING DRAPES

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This invention relates to the cleaning and finishing of drapes. Conventional cleaning procedure involves a tumbling action in a drum of cleaning solution, and the usual suspension hooks on draperies present a problem. If left in place, the tumbling action produces a tendency for the hooks to engage and tear the fabric. To remove and replace the hooks involves a tremendous amount of labor, and labor is the principal cost determinant in cleaning operations.

The present invention provides a procedure which isolates and confines the hooks, but does not interfere with the cleaning action. According to the preferred procedure, the drapes are first folded at the upper end approximately in the middle so that the fold line is parallel to the length. The opposite edges are thus brought together; and in this position, the upper portion of the drape is rolled so that the fold appears at the outer part of the roll. The fold is made so that the hooks on the drapery are on the inside of the fold, and the resulting rolled portion therefore leaves none of the hooks exposed. Preferably, this rolled portion is secured by placing it in a bag of nylon mesh, with the bag having a draw string which can be tied to hold the assembly together. In this condition, the drape can be placed in a conventional dry-cleaning machine without fear that the hooks will engage the fabric. The length of the bag (and the consequent placement of the draw string) can be selected to produce a resulting crease at a point which is easily reachable by the conventional pressing equipment without the necessity of special operations. The several features of the invention will be discussed in further detail through an analysis of the accompanying drawing. In the drawing:

FIGURE 1 presents a perspective view of a conventional drape showing the normal position of suspension hooks along the upper edge.

FIGURE 2 illustrates the manner in which the drape is folded and rolled prior to the installation of the retaining bag.

FIGURE 3 illustrates the completed installation of the permeable bag on the rolled drape.

FIGURE 4 is a plan view of a recommended form of retaining bag.

Referring to the drawing, the upper portion of a conventional drape is indicated generally at **10**. The top hem area **11** is provided with a series of spaced suspension hooks **12–16**, and the pleats **17–20** are normally positioned opposite these hooks. In preparing the drape **10** for cleaning, the upper portion is folded at **21** (refer to FIGURE 2), and the resulting folded drape is rolled. The rolling is begun at the edges **22** and **23**, and it will be noted that the fold **21** is made in such a manner that the hooks **24** are disposed on the inside. The roll may then be inserted in the permeable bag **25** and confined as shown in FIGURE 3 by tightening and knotting the draw string **26**. A conventional connecting device may be used in place of a knot, if desired. The upper portion of the drape may be gathered in some other form than the rolling illustrated in FIGURE 2, but this has been found to be the preferable arrangement for compacting the drapery material in such a manner that it is easily secured without exposing any of the hooks. The material of which the bag **25** is made is preferably of an open-

mesh nylon, and this construction provides adequate permeability and access for the cleaning solution to the drape without sacrificing the confinement necessary to eliminate the danger of exposed hooks.

The length **27** of the bag **25** should be selected with the pressing operation in mind. The length of the hem **11** determines the axial positioning of the pleat extensions **28–31**. If the crease in the drape caused by the presence of the draw string **26** is too near the hem **11**, it becomes very difficult to apply a standard pressing machine between the pleats, and it is therefore desirable to establish a length **27** of approximately **12** to **14** inches in order to position the crease at a point far enough down from the hem so that it is easily reachable by the conventional presser end without requiring a special construction. The space between the adjacent pleats on the drape will also influence this position at which the standard pressing machine can be applied, but it has been found that a bag of the length suggested above (assuming the upper end of the drape to be inserted for the full depth of the bag) will be adequate so that special pressing operations will not be necessary.

The particular embodiments of the present invention which have been illustrated and discussed herein are for illustrative purposes only and are not to be considered as a limitation upon the scope of the appended claims. In these claims, it is my intent to claim the entire invention disclosed herein, except as I am limited by the prior art.

I claim:

1. A method of cleaning and finishing drapes that are provided with a group of spaced suspension hooks adjacent the upper edge, said method comprising: folding said drapes parallel to the normally vertical dimension thereof with the suspension hooks on the inside of the resulting fold; rolling the upper portion of said drapes about an axis which extends substantially vertically when said drapes are suspended by said hooks from a support, said axis being substantially parallel to the said fold, with the said fold on the exterior of the resulting roll; inserting and securing exclusively the rolled upper portion in a permeable bag; cleaning said drapes; and removing the said bag.

2. A method of cleaning and finishing drapes that are provided with a group of spaced suspension hooks adjacent the upper edge, said method comprising: folding said drapes parallel to the normally vertical dimension thereof with the suspension hooks on the inside of the resulting fold; rolling the upper portion of said drapes about an axis which extends substantially vertically when said drapes are suspended by said hooks from a support, said axis being substantially parallel to the said fold, with the said fold on the exterior of the resulting roll; inserting and securing exclusively the rolled upper portion in a permeable bag; and cleaning said secured drapes.

3. A method of cleaning and finishing drapes that are provided with a group of spaced suspension hooks adjacent the upper edge, said method comprising: folding said drapes parallel to the normally vertical dimension thereof with the suspension hooks on the inside of the resulting fold; rolling the upper portion of said drapes about an axis which extends substantially vertically when said drapes are suspended by said hooks from a support, said axis being substantially parallel to the said fold; wrapping exclusively the rolled upper portion with permeable material; and cleaning said wrapped drapes.

4. A method of cleaning and finishing drapes that are provided with a group of spaced suspension hooks adjacent the upper edge, said method comprising: rolling the upper portion of said drapes about an axis which extends substantially vertically when said drapes are suspended by said hooks from a support, said axis being substantially

parallel to the normally vertical dimension thereof with the said suspension hooks on the inside of the resulting roll; confining exclusively the rolled upper portion with permeable material; and cleaning said confined drapes.

5. A method of cleaning and finishing drapes that are provided with a group of spaced suspension hooks adjacent the upper edge, said method comprising: gathering the upper portion of said drapes into a bundle with the said suspension hooks disposed between proximate surfaces of the drapes and covered thereby; inserting exclusively the said upper portion bundle and securing the same in a permeable bag; and cleaning said secured drapes.

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