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UMBRELLA COVERS

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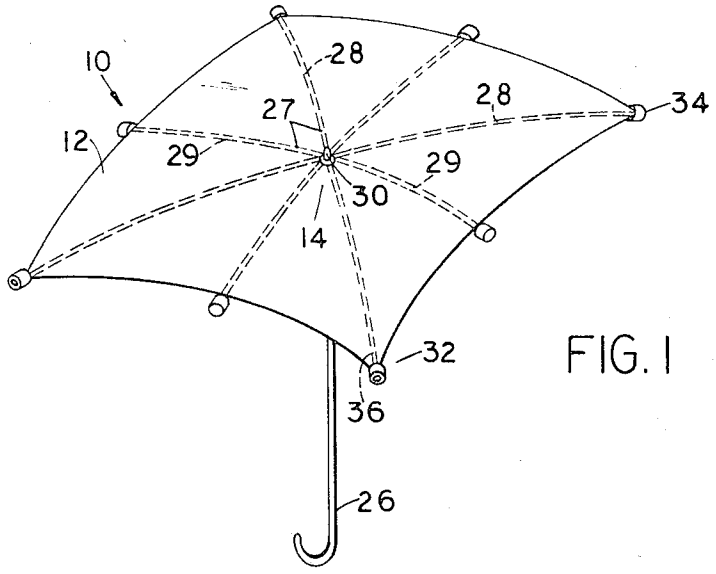


FIG. 1

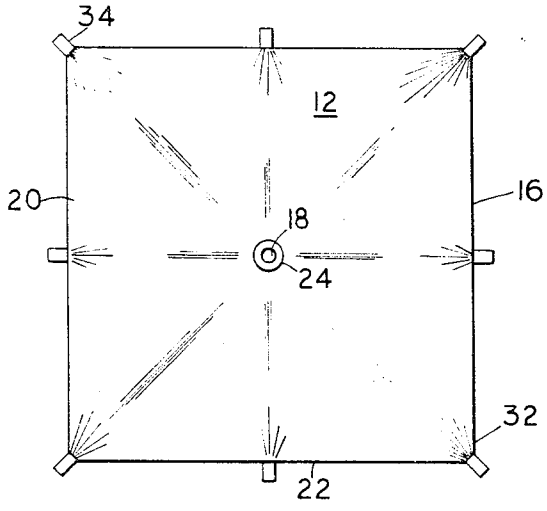


FIG. 2

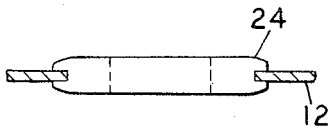


FIG. 3

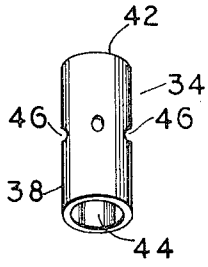


FIG. 4

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UMBRELLA COVERS

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The essense of this invention resides in a square reversible umbrella cover. A plurality of connecting means are provided, generally, at the outer periphery of the umbrella cover which connecting means may be reversibly connected to the ribs of the umbrella structure. The connecting means are reversibly connected to the umbrella cover such that when the cover is reversed the connecting means may readily be made to support the cover on the ribs. A hole is provided at the approximate center of the cover and is provided with a ring there around so that the center of the cover may be fit over the umbrella ferrule whether in one position or in a reversed position.

The present invention relates to a reversible umbrella and more particularly to a reversible umbrella cover of one piece construction.

Heretofore, it has been known in the art of rain umbrellas that the cover which provides the protection for the user of the umbrella has been comprised of a multiplicity of pieces cut and sewn together to form a circular cover for an umbrella frame. The circular cover is fitted over the frame or skeleton of the umbrella and fastened thereto by means of clips or sewing such that the cover is permanently affixed to the frame of the umbrella. In the known form of the umbrella art varying degrees of style design have been made within the past decade however, because of the increasing style changes and color combinations the older fixed cover umbrellas have lost a great deal of their customer appeal because of the lack of versatility in the fashion world. Further, the umbrella art has been bogged down by tradition in that new departures and innovations in construction as well as cover construction have not been attempted for fear of public reaction thereto.

Various attempts have been made to form a new type of cover arrangement and in some degrees have attempted a reversible type cover for the umbrella, however, the majority of these attempts have met with dismal failure because of the rather complicated frame construction that was required as well as the inability to adapt new parts for the reversible type umbrellas. Further, it is recognized that new innovations must be made to keep pace with the modern trends and to extend to some degree the life and utility of the umbrella. It may also be recognized that because of the type of covers which are common in the umbrella art, it was almost impossible to have a cover reversible because of the circular shape which required the seaming of the cover and the seams generally were hidden in the under part of the cover, however, when reversing the cover the seams would become visible.

It is the general object of the present invention to avoid and overcome the foregoing and other difficulties and objections to prior art devices by providing a reversible umbrella cover which is both inexpensive and easily manufactured.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an umbrella cover which is easily and quickly reversible.

Yet a further object of the present invention is to provide an umbrella cover which may provide different color schemes on the two sides of the cover.

Still a further object of the present invention is to provide a reversible umbrella cover having a new shape.

Yet a further object of the present invention is to provide an umbrella cover with the proper connecting means to permit the quick and easy reversibility of the cover.

The objects of the present invention have been achieved by providing a reversible umbrella comprising a reversible cover, said cover being four sidedly shaped joining at right angles at its corners and having a hole therein, a frame over which said reversible cover fits, said frame having a center rod and a plurality of elongated ribs extending radially therefrom, a plurality of foreshortened ribs extending radially from said center rod, a reversible alignment means disposed in said hole and adapted to fit over the ferrule end of said center rod, and a plurality of reversible connecting means attached to said reversible cover, said reversible connecting means adapted to receive the ends of said elongated ribs when said reversible cover is in one position or its reversed position.

For a better understanding of the present invention, reference should be had to the accompanying drawings wherein like numerals of reference indicate similar parts throughout the several views and wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of an umbrella,

FIGURE 2 is a plan view of an umbrella cover,

FIGURE 3 is a view of the ring construction in the umbrella cover, and

FIGURE 4 is an enlarged view of the connecting means.

It should be recognized that the principles of the present invention are applicable to new and novel umbrellas and although these principles may be thought to encompass other areas, the present invention is limited to the improvement and new innovations in the umbrella art solely.

As shown in FIGURE 1, an umbrella is generally indicated by the reference numeral **10**. In order to provide the necessary protection afforded by the umbrella a cover **12** is provided which fits over the ribbed construction **14** of the umbrella **10**.

The cover **12** may be made of material well known to those skilled in the art and it is particularly understood that the material per se forms no part of the present invention.

The cover **12** may be made of a material **16** well known to those skilled in the art and is provided with a hole **18** in the center thereof. As shown in FIGURES 1 and 2, the shape of the cover **12** is generally four sided with its corners and right angles and may be provided on its upper surface **20** with a design and on its lower surface **22** with yet another design or color scheme. It should be noted that the cover **12** may be of one piece construction however, more than one layer of material may be used thereby permitting distinctively different design and color combinations on the covers upper and lower surfaces **20**, **22**. The hole **18** may be provided with a reversible alignment means **24** therein such as a ring **24** therearound of generally metallic material, however, other materials may be used in the making of the reversible alignment means **24** such as plastic or like materials.

As shown in FIGURE 1, the general construction of the umbrella **10** is comprised of a rod **26** having ribs **27** in communication therewith. The ribs **27** are so constructed and disposed so that four (4) elongated ribs **28**, of equal length, may extend to the extremities of the cover **12** to the point where the cover material join at right angles **32** whereas other foreshortened ribs **29**, whether four (4) or eight (8) equal sized ribs, extend to the periphery of the cover **12**, at points between the corners. The foreshortened ribs **29** are used generally to maintain the proper shape of the cover **12**. The rod **26** may be provided with a ferrule end **30** which may protrude through the top of the cover **12** through the hole **18** and

the reversible alignment means **24**. As further shown in FIGURE 1, the present invention provides a thin ferrule end **30** arrangement such that the reversible alignment means **24** may slip over the ferrule end **30** without any hindrance and this reversible alignment means **24** may fit over the ferrule end **30** in its position as shown or in the position wherein the cover **12** is reversed.

At the right angle joints **32** of the cover **12** and at other points along the periphery of the cover **12** a multiplicity of connecting means **34** are pivotable attached such that the ends **36** of the elongated ribs **28** and foreshortened ribs **29** may be connected thereto, thereby holding the cover **12** onto the ribs **28** so that the cover **12** may not be easily removed therefrom by a high wind or jostling. The pivotable connecting means **34** may be comprised of a small tubular shaped member **38** being opened at its ends **42, 44** and may be provided with a plurality of holes **46** in the center around the center periphery thereof to allow the connecting means **34** to be either sewn to the extremities of the cover **12** or connected in a convenient manner to the cover **12**. It should be noted that the connecting means **34** are generally short in length the reason being that they are pivotably connected to the outer periphery at the right angle joints **32** and other points on the periphery of the cover **12** such that in its reversed position the pivotable connecting means **34** may be reversed so that the elongated ribs **28** and foreshortened ribs **29** of the umbrella, may be fit thereinto. In this respect, it may be seen that the ends of the elongated ribs **28** and foreshortened ribs **29** may fit into either end **42, 44** of the connecting means **34** so that when the umbrella cover **12** is firstly connected in one position on the ribs **14**, when the cover **12** is desired to be reversed, the cover **12** will be turned over exposing the second surface or lower surface **22** and the pivotable connecting mans **34** will be pivoted so that the other end of the connecting means **34** will receive the tips of the ribs **27**. In this manner, it will be recognized that the ends **42, 44** of the pivotable connecting means **34** are open to receive the tips of the ribs **27** when the cover **12** is in one position or its reversed position.

With this particular construction, it may be seen that the cover **12** may be provided with ornamental designs on either its upper surface **20** or its lower surface **22** and that by disconnecting the pivotable connecting means **34** from the elongated ribs **28** and foreshortened ribs **29** of the umbrella **10** and by allowing the reversible alignment means **24**, in the center of the cover **12**, to slip over the ferrule end **30**, the cover **12** may be removed and reversed or inverted and then placed back over the ribs **27** allowing the ferrule end **30** to slip through the center of the reversible alignment means **24** and by reversing the pivotable connecting means **34** will allow the ends of the elongated ribs **28** and foreshortened ribs **29** to slide into the open end of the pivotable connecting means **34** thereby fastening the cover **12** directly to the ribs **27**. In this manner, it will be seen that the cover **12** is quite easily reversible providing a means for varying the design on the umbrella cover so that the user of the umbrella **10** may vary the color schemes available to him when it is so desired.

It will further be recognized that the uncomplicated reversible feature lends itself to a more utilitarian and novel type of umbrella.

While in accordance with the patent statutes, a preferred embodiment of the present invention has been illustrated and described in detail, it is to be particularly understood that the invention is not limited thereto or thereby.

I claim:.

1. A reversible umbrella comprising a frame having a plurality of elongated ribs, said frame being provided with a center rod having a handle end and a ferrule end, said elongated ribs being collapsibly mounted on said center rod and being provided with ends extending radially from said center rod, a plurality of foreshortened ribs collapsibly mounted on said center rod and extending radially therefrom, a reversible cover connectable to said ribs and having a hole therein, a reversible alignment means disposed in said hole and adapted to fit over the ferrule end of said center rod, said reversible cover being four sidedly shaped joining at right angles at its corners, and a plurality of cylindrically shaped open ended connecting means attached to said reversible cover, said cylindrically shaped reversible connecting means adapted to receive the ends of said elongated and foreshortened ribs when said reversible cover is in one position or its reversed position.

2. A reversible umbrella according to claim **1** wherein said plurality of foreshortened ribs are collapsibly connected to said center rod for aiding in maintaining the shape of said reversible cover when said reversible cover is in one position or its reversed position.

3. A reversible umbrella according to claim **2** wherein said reversible connecting means comprises an open ended tubular shaped member having a plurality of holes around the center thereof, said holes providing a means connecting said reversible connecting means to the corners and periphery of said reversible cover.

4. A reversible umbrella according to claim **3** wherein the ends of said elongated ribs and foreshortened ribs are insertable in one end of said reversible connecting means and when said reversible cover is reversed said ends are insertable in the other end of said reversible connecting means.

5. A reversible umbrella according to claim **4** wherein said reversible alignment means comprises a ring member fixedly secured in the hole of said reversible cover and adapted to slide over the ferrule end of said center rod when said reversible cover is changed from one position to the reversed position.

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