(54) Title: ANTI-FRICTION DEVICE FOR THE SLIDING OF CLOTH RINGS OF CURTAINS, PELMETS AND SIMILAR

(57) Abstract:
The anti-friction device for the sliding of cloth rings (A) of curtains, pelmets (M) and similar according to the present invention consists of a shaped element (1) out of wood, metal, plastic or other material, corresponding to the curving of the lateral surface of the support (B), provided with means (2, 3) for the application into the internal upper portion (SSI) of each cloth ring (A), so as to be arranged between said ring (A) and said support (B), thus helping the reciprocal sliding.
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The present invention concerns an anti-friction device for the sliding of cloth rings of curtains, pelmets and similar.

It is known that at present users like to replace the conventional wood, metal or plastic sliding rings on the support for curtains, pelmets and similar with corresponding rings produced with the same cloth and/or colour shade of the curtains.

This solution shows the disadvantage that the deformability of said rings and their considerable friction along the supports don't allow an easy sliding of the curtains.

It is the aim of the present invention to completely solve above mentioned inconvenience by means of a device which maintains the possibility of using aesthetically pleasant cloth rings and allows an easy sliding thereof along the support, as if they were of wood, metal or plastic, greatly reducing the friction.
Certain exemplary embodiments can provide an anti-friction device for enabling sliding of a cloth ring along a support having a curved lateral surface, the cloth ring having an upper internal surface and being operatively connected to a curtain, pelmet or similar, the device comprising: a rigid shaped element comprising a lower curved portion corresponding to the curved lateral surface of the support, the rigid element for placement between the support and the upper internal surface of the cloth ring; and connecting means for connecting the rigid shaped element to the upper internal surface of the cloth ring, the connecting means comprising: a fastener portion connected to the rigid shaped element; and a corresponding connection element connected to the upper internal surface of the cloth ring for engaging the fastener portion thereby connecting the rigid shaped element with the cloth ring.

The aim set forth is reached by means of the device according to the present invention, consisting of an element out of rigid plastic material or other kind, having
a curving corresponding to the one of the lateral surface of the support, and provided with means for being applied in the internal upper portion of each cloth ring, so as to be arranged between the ring and the support, helping the reciprocal sliding and transforming the friction into a rolling friction similar to the one of the conventional wood, plastic or metal rings. Furthermore, the device has minimal dimensions so that it may be housed inside the cloth eyelets of already existing curtains, into which no structure of long shape could be inserted.

The device according to the present invention will be described more in detail hereinbelow relating to the enclosed drawings, in which:

figure 1, shows an axonometric exploded view of an anti-friction device for the sliding of cloth rings of curtains, pelmets and similar, according to the present invention;

figure 2, shows an axonometric and partially transparency view of some embodiments according to figure 1, installed for the sliding of a pelmet M;

figure 3, shows an axonometric view of the arrangement of the end element 1' for the control of the pulling of the cord for the sliding of the curtain;

figure 4 shows the installation of element 1' of figure 3 onto a cloth ring A.
The enclosed figures show an anti-friction device for the sliding of cloth rings of curtains, pelmets and similar, mainly consisting of:

- a rigid shaped element 1, out of wood, plastic or metal or other material, having a lower curving corresponding to the one of the lateral surface of the support B for the sliding of pelmets M, so as to be arranged between said support B and the upper internal surface SSI of each cloth ring A, usually produced with the same material and colour shade of the curtain M, so as to form an aesthetic continuity;

- a means for applying said element 1 to each ring A, consisting of a portion 2 of velcro* or similar, integral with said element 1, and with a corresponding connection element 3 that may be applied to the surface SSI of each ring A, so as to allow the same to slide along the support B without a particular friction, as it will result integral with said shaped element 1.

According to the present invention, the modular elements 1 must be of very small dimensions so as to be housed inside said cloth rings A of already existing curtains, and must be realized out of rigid material for forming a resistant support when the end element 1' (as shown in figures 3 and 4) must be connected in point 4 to the cord C for traction, for closing and opening the curtain M.

*Trademark
CLAIMS:

1. An anti-friction device for enabling sliding of a cloth ring along a support having a curved lateral surface, the cloth ring having an upper internal surface and being operatively connected to a curtain, pelmet or similar, the device comprising:
   a rigid shaped element comprising a lower curved portion corresponding to the curved lateral surface of the support, the rigid element for placement between the support and the upper internal surface of the cloth ring; and
   connecting means for connecting the rigid shaped element to the upper internal surface of the cloth ring, the connecting means comprising:
      a fastener portion connected to the rigid shaped element;
   and
   a corresponding connection element connected to the upper internal surface of the cloth ring for engaging the fastener portion thereby connecting the rigid shaped element with the cloth ring.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the rigid shaped element comprises a material selected from the group consisting of wood, plastic and metal.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein the fastener portion and the corresponding connection element comprise a hook-and-loop type component.

4. The device of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the rigid shaped element forms a resistant support for use as an end element and attachment to a cord to enable sliding of the cloth ring along the support thereby moving the curtain, pelmet or similar between an open and a closed position.
5. A curtain, pelmet or similar comprising at least one cloth ring having an upper internal surface for sliding along a support having a curved lateral surface, the curtain, pelmet or similar comprising the anti-friction device of any one of claims 1 to 4 for placement between the upper internal surface of each cloth ring for enabling sliding of each cloth ring along the support.

6. The curtain, pelmet or similar of claim 5, wherein the material or colour of the curtain, pelmet or similar matches the material or colour of each cloth ring.