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SHOWER CURTAIN ROD ATTACHMENT

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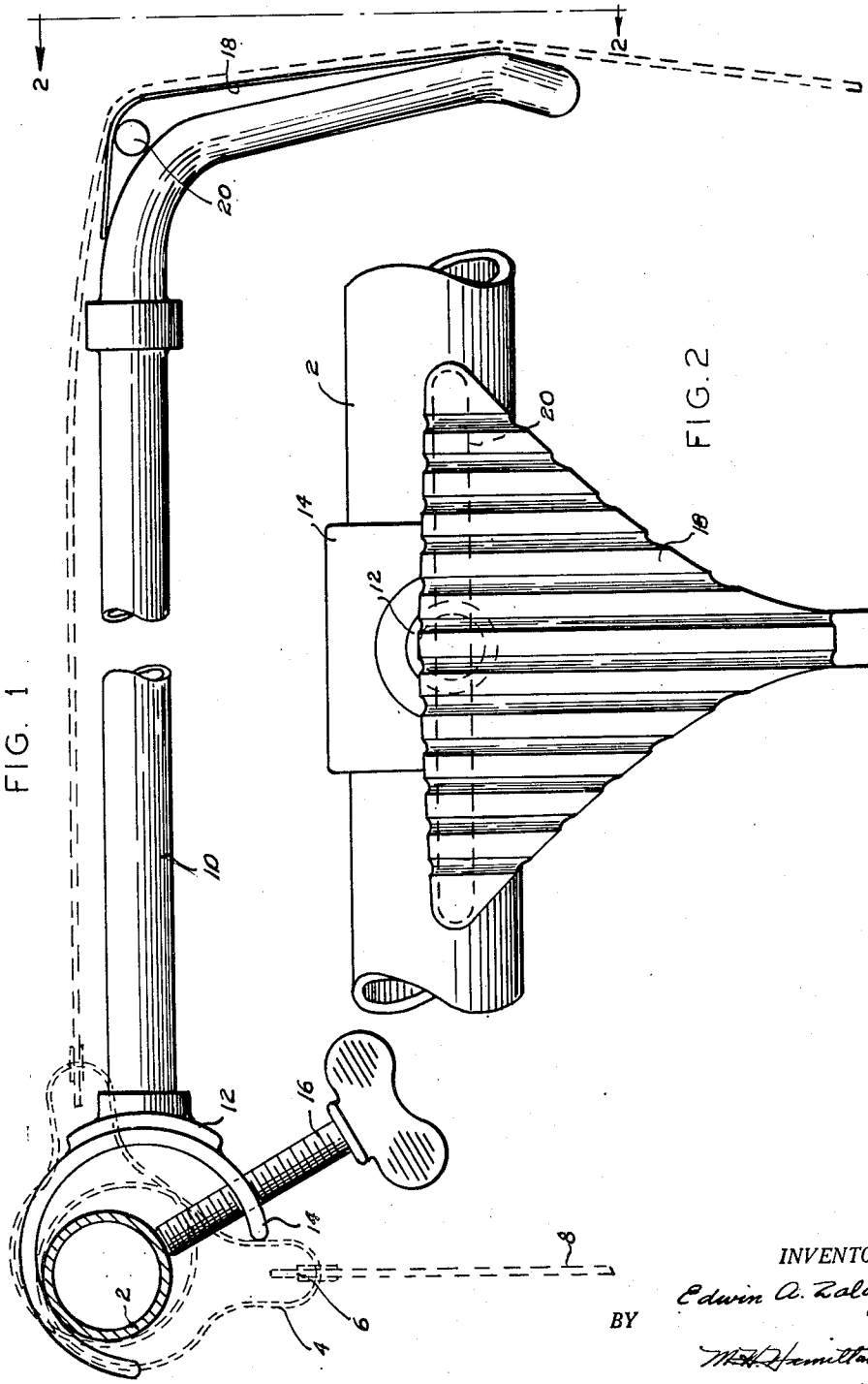


FIG. 1

FIG. 2

INVENTOR.
Edwin A. Zaloga
BY
M. H. Hamilton
ATTORNEY

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SHOWER CURTAIN ROD ATTACHMENT

Edwin A. Zaloga, Waltham, Mass.

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6 Claims. (Cl. 4—154)

This invention relates to a bathroom shower accessory for use with shower curtain rods to aid in supporting a shower curtain in a position to increase the space in a shower enclosure.

In many shower installations, there is a present tendency to construct the shower enclosure in a relatively small compact size with the result that there is only limited room within the shower enclosure. The user may, in such relatively small shower enclosures, be undesirably closed in and, in particular, may be inconvenienced by the shower curtain tending to be drawn inwardly to an extent such that it sticks to the user.

It is an object of the invention to devise a shower curtain stretcher accessory for dealing with this problem of limited space and, particularly, for preventing the shower curtain from being drawn into contact with the user. It is a further object of the invention to provide a curtain stretcher member which may be detachably secured to a shower curtain rod; which is easy to use and install; which can be conveniently stored; which will not damage a shower curtain and, which is durable and strong.

These and other objects and novel features will be more fully understood and appreciated from the following discussion of the invention.

Essentially, my invention is based on the idea of dealing with the indicated problem and accomplishing the objectives outlined by combining with a curtain shower rod an extension piece which may, in one preferred form, be associated with that portion of a shower enclosure from which the shower curtain is suspended which in the usual case consists of a curtain rod. In accordance with the concept of the invention, the extension piece is combined in such a way that it may be swung into a position where it extends laterally outwardly to displace the shower curtain outwardly and support it in a suspended position which increases the space within the shower enclosure.

A preferred embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawings in which

Fig. 1 is a view in side elevation and partial cross-section showing the curtain stretcher of the invention adjustably supported in a shower curtain rod installation; and

Fig. 2 is a front elevational view of the curtain stretcher.

Referring more in detail to the structure shown in the drawings, numeral **2** denotes a curtain rod of the conventional type which, as is customary with such articles, is supported at two ends between opposite sidewall portions of a shower enclosure. Along the rod **2** is slidably supported a plurality of curtain supporting rings as **4** which are ordinarily employed to receive hook fastenings **6**. The latter fastenings, in turn, have suspended therefrom a shower curtain member **8** of plastic or other waterproofing material of a length such that it may extend well beyond a confining edge of a bathtub or shower wall section.

In accordance with the invention, I combine with the rod **2** a curtain stretcher assembly which includes an extension arm consisting of an elongated body portion **10** preferably of tubular form. This member is adapted to be secured in a laterally extended position, such as shown in Fig. 1 by an adjusting locking means. The locking means may consist of a coupling piece **12**, on which is mounted a cutaway tubular fitting **14** of a diameter substantially exceeding the diameter of the curtain rod **2**.

The fitting **14** is adapted to encircle the curtain rod, as noted in Fig. 1, and threaded through the fitting is a wing bolt **16** which is adapted to jam the curtain rod between its extremity and immediately opposite wall surface of the fitting, as illustrated. It will be apparent that, by loosening the wing bolt, the stretcher may be rotated about a horizontal axis into various positions of adjustment where it supports the curtain in an outwardly projected position to materially increase the space enclosed by the suspended portions of the curtain. If it is desired, the stretcher may also be swung upwardly out of an operative position entirely.

At its opposite end, the member **10** supports a curtain holder piece **18** which may, for example, consist of a thin sheet material, such as a plastic piece bent over upon itself to present a downwardly extending apron portion, as shown and against which portions of the shower curtain may be supported, as indicated. It will be obvious that this folder **18** may be located in any desired position and may also be supported by various means. For example, I may employ screws or other fastenings to a retaining rod **20**, as shown in Fig. 1.

The curtain holder piece **18** may be of a magnitude such that it provides a relatively large supporting area and, by reason of its curved shape, serves to support the shower curtain without in any way tending to pierce the shower curtain material or otherwise damage it. Although I have shown a single stretcher and curtain holder piece in the drawings, it will be understood that I may use a plurality of these stretcher members or I may provide a single stretcher member having a plurality of extension pieces separated from one another to bear against a shower curtain over a much larger area.

It is also intended that various changes may be resorted to in modifying the invention. For example, I may attach the stretcher arm and shower curtain holder piece at other points than on the shower curtain rods. For example, the arm may be pivotally associated with one of the sidewalls of the shower enclosure and be adapted to be swung outwardly to provide a shower curtain holding action. Also, the stretcher may be desired to be constructed as an integral part of the curtain rod from which, by means of suitable pivoting mechanism, it may be swung outwardly into any desired position.

It will be observed that I have thus provided a simple, effective, and easily installed shower curtain attachment which can be easily adjusted to increase the size of the shower enclosure and, yet, may be swung out of the way when its use is not desirable.

While I have shown a preferred embodiment of the invention, it should be understood that various other changes and modifications may be resorted to within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. An accessory for a curtain rod and shower curtain assembly comprising a stretcher member adapted to support said shower curtain in a laterally extended position, said stretcher member including an elongated body portion, means located at one end of the body portion for securing same in a laterally extended position with respect to the said curtain rod, and means secured at the

opposite end of the elongated body for supporting a shower curtain thereagainst.

2. A structure as defined in claim 1 in which the means for adjustably securing the elongated body consists of a tubular fitting and a threaded engaging member for locking the fitting around the said curtain rod.

3. A structure according to claim 1 in which the means for receiving the curtain consists of a thin sheet material curved to present a convex supporting surface for engaging against the shower curtain.

4. In a shower curtain rod assembly, a curtain rod, a shower curtain supporting member secured to the curtain rod in a laterally extended position and a triangularly shaped curtain engaging piece attached at the outer end

of the curtain supporting member and shaped to provide a downwardly extending apron.

5. A structure according to claim 1 in which the elongated body portion may be rotated about a horizontal axis into various positions of adjustment.

6. A structure according to claim 1 in which the elongated body portion is slidable on the curtain rod and adapted to be secured at any desired point therealong.

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