Oct. 27, 1970 J. L. GOSNELL 3,536,569

DISPENSER-APPLICATOR APPARATUS FOR MASKING TAPE

Filed Nov. 13, 1967 3 Sheets-Sheet 2

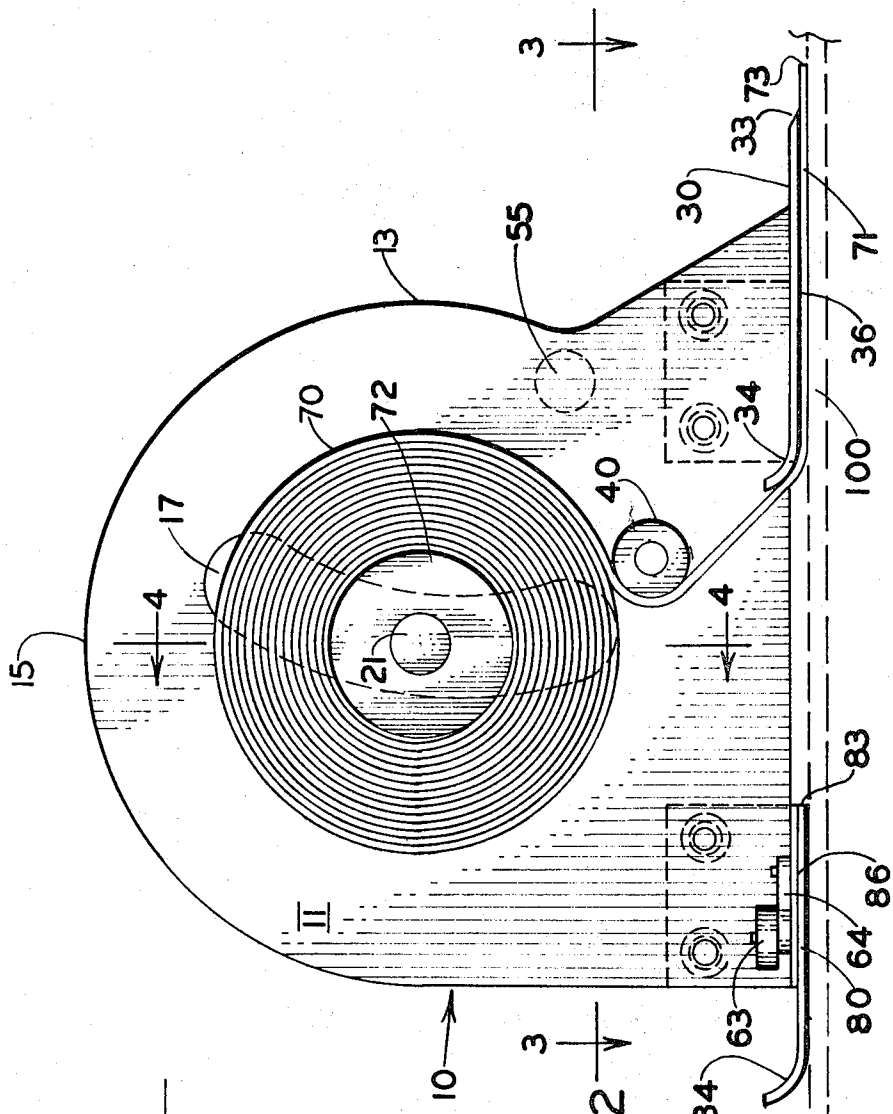


FIG.-2

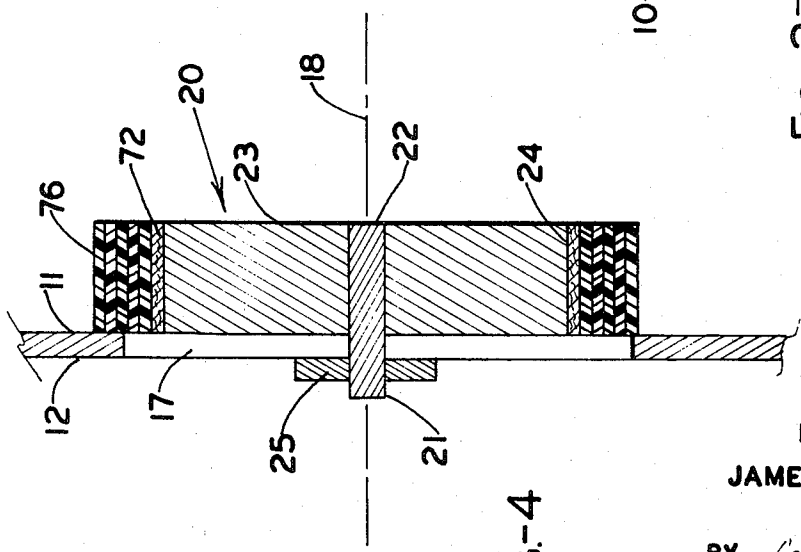


FIG.-4

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Oct. 27, 1970 J. L. GOSNELL 3,536,569

DISPENSER-APPLICATOR APPARATUS FOR MASKING TAPE

Filed Nov. 13, 1967 3 Sheets-Sheet 1

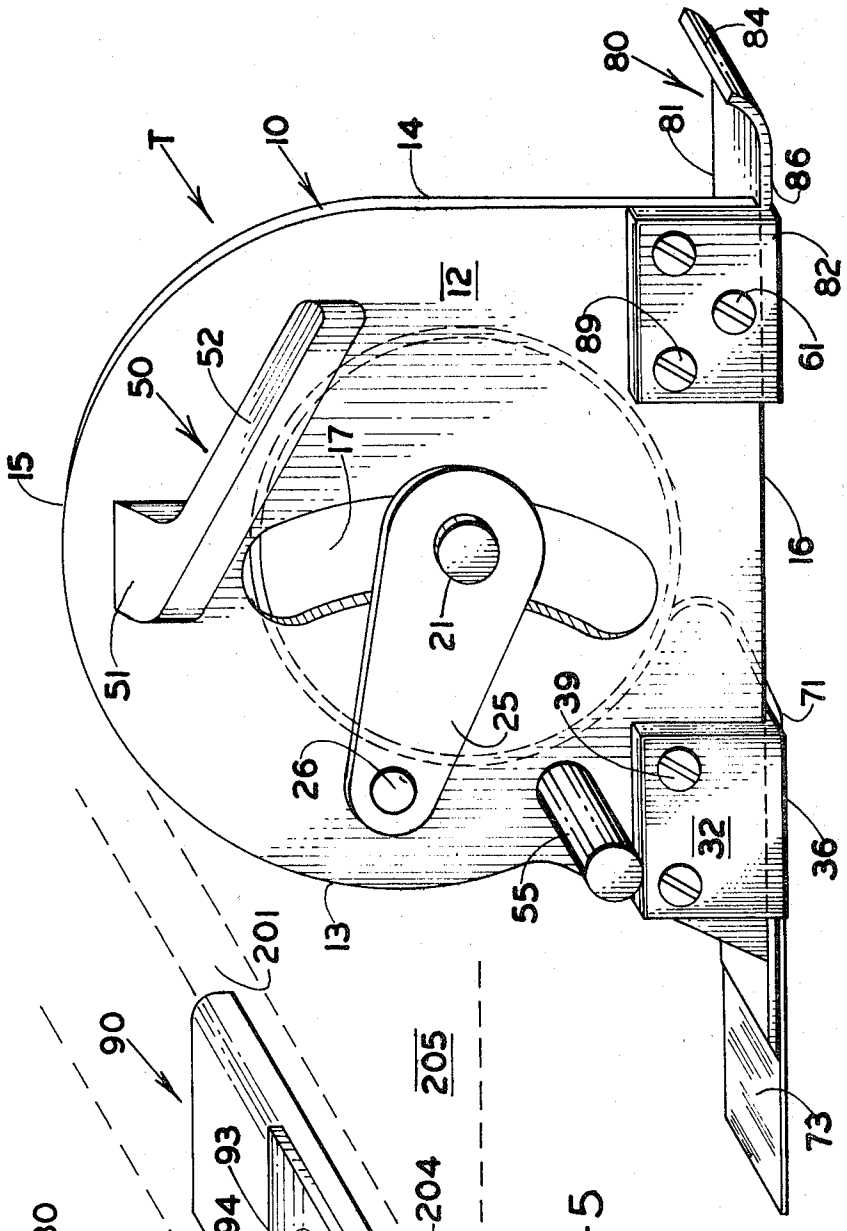


FIG.-1

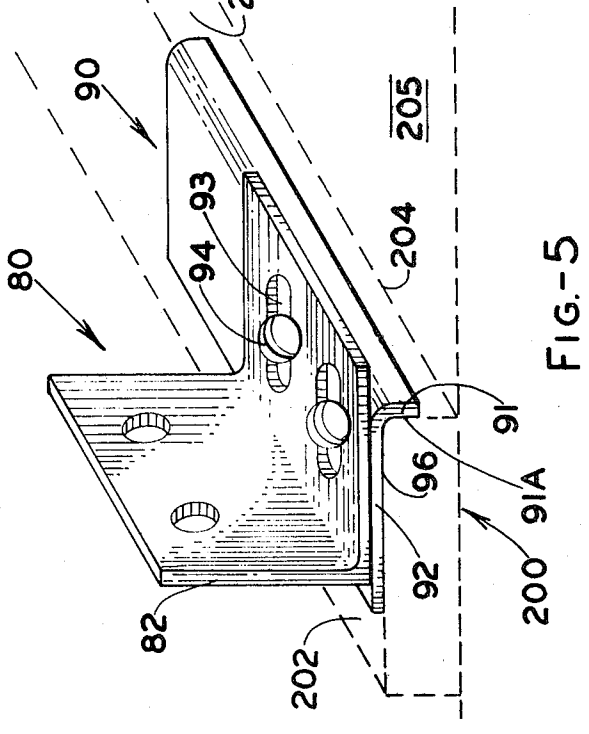


FIG.-5

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Oct. 27, 1970 J. L. GOSNELL 3,536,569

DISPENSER-APPLICATOR APPARATUS FOR MASKING TAPE

Filed Nov. 13, 1967 3 Sheets-Sheet 3

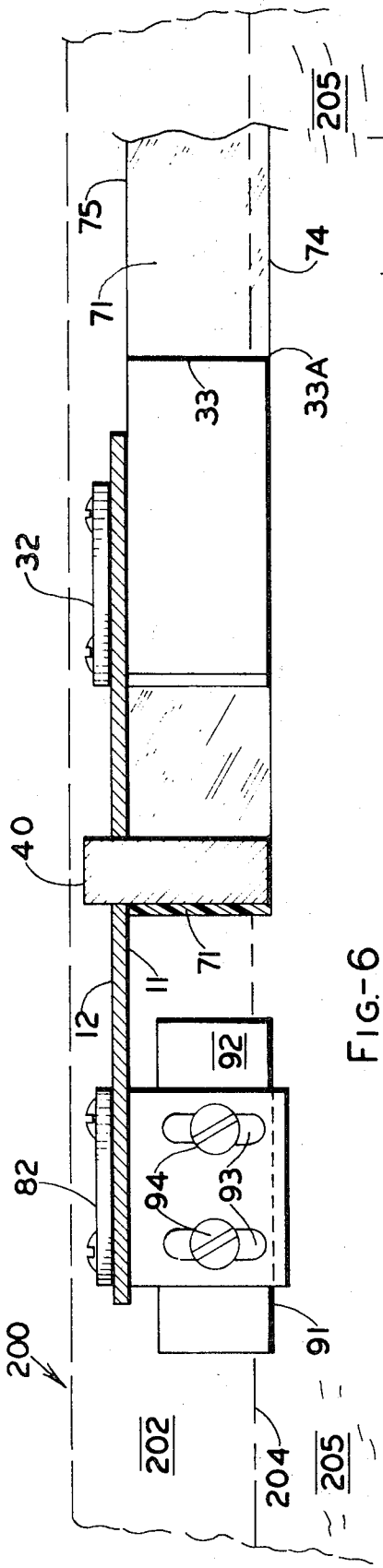


FIG.-6

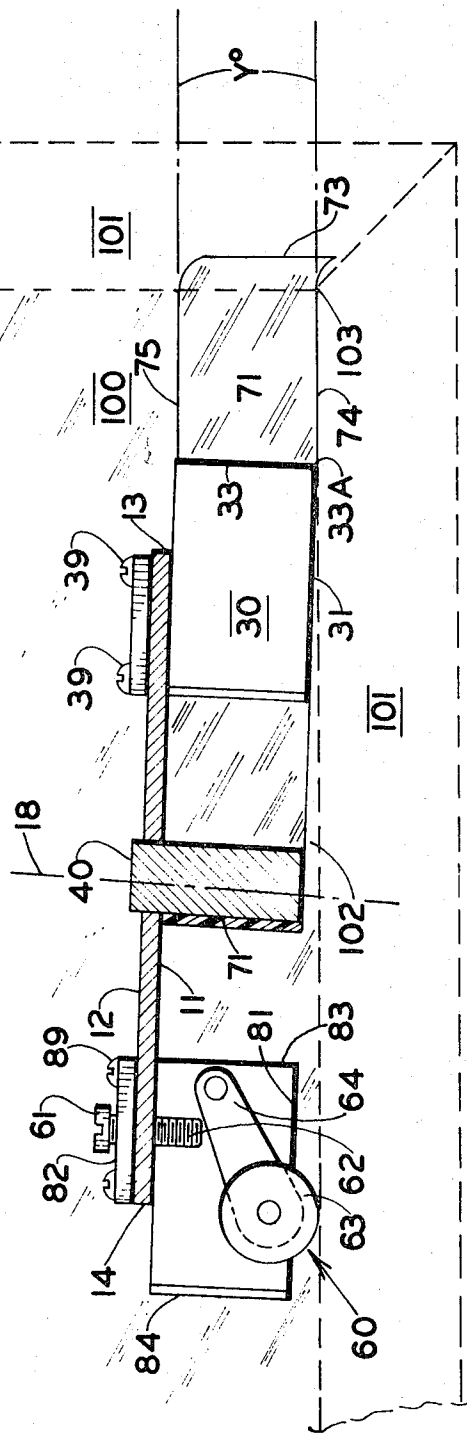


FIG.-3

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United States Patent Office 3,536,569 Patented Oct. 27, 1970

3,536,569

DISPENSER-APPLICATOR APPARATUS FOR MASKING TAPE

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Filed Nov. 13, 1967, Ser. No. 682,138
Int. Cl. B32b 31/20; B44c 7/02
U.S. Cl. 156—527 9 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Apparatus for dispensing elongate lengths of pressure-sensitive adhesive tapes from a tape-roll wherein the pressure-sensitive tape is rolled in convolute fashion about a central core support. In particular, this invention relates to an apparatus that both dispenses and applies elongate lengths of pressure-sensitive masking tapes immediately adjacent to, but not beyond, the linear border of a surface to be painted or analogously coated.

During the performance of painting, varnishing, and similar coating operations, pairs of contiguous surfaces are commonly encountered wherein the two contiguous surfaces intersect at a linear elongate border line. It is oftentimes necessary to apply paint upon just one of the two contiguous surfaces including immediately adjacent along the elongate border line between said surface-to-be-painted and the contiguous "inviolate" surface, but not beyond said elongate border line onto the said "inviolate" surface. Three types of intersecting contiguous surfaces, one being the "inviolate surface," are commonly encountered by the painter. In the first type, or "recessed inviolate" situation, the surface-to-be-painted is elevated above the "inviolate" surface. For example, window structures commonly comprise a planar transparent panel surrounded by an integral lofty boundary-frame, and in such "recessed inviolate" situations it is usually necessary to apply the topical coating onto the boundary-frame portion and immediately adjacent along its linear border line with the "inviolate" pane, but not upon the pane itself. Two intersecting walls of a room also illustrate the "recessed inviolate" situation, wherein but one of the two walls is to be painted. In the second type, or "elevated inviolate" situation, the surface-to-be-painted is recessed below the "inviolate" surface. For example, in the painting of automobile exteriors comprising decorative elongate bright-metal lofty ribs, it is usually necessary to apply paint upon the exterior surface of the automobile body and immediately adjacent along its elongate border lines with the decorative bright-metal lofty ribs, but not onto the decorative rib itself. Finally, in the third type, or "coplanar inviolate" situation, wherein a single uniplanar panel is to be provided with two distinctly different chromatic areas, the surface-to-be-painted and the "inviolate" surface are substantially coplanar. For example, it is oftentimes desired to paint the lower half only of a wall, and thus, the wall upper half might be termed a "coplanar inviolate" surface.

In all three situations (the "recessed inviolate," the "elevated inviolate," and the "coplanar inviolate"), so-called "masking tapes" comprising a sheet-like flexible backing with a pressure-sensitive adhesive on one side are customarily removably adherently applied upon the "inviolate" surface immediately adjacent along the elongate border line between said "inviolate" surface and the surface-to-be-painted. Following the painting operation, the protective removably-adherent "masking tape," together with any paint droppings thereon, is removed from the "inviolate" surface protected thereby, thus resulting in a neat sharply-delineated application of paint on the one desired surface only.

Although the so-called "masking tapes" are admirably suited to shield "inviolate" surfaces immediately contiguous to a surface-to-be-painted, they are exceedingly difficult to apply exactly along the linear border of juncture between the "inviolate" surface area and the surface-to-be-painted. Several workers in the art have attempted to provide apparatus for dispensing and applying elongate lengths of masking tapes in appropriate fashion upon the "inviolate" surface along the exact border line of the surface-to-be-painted; however, the prior art apparatuses have had several noteable deficiencies including cumbersome and expensive construction, awkward and unreliable operational features, and inadaptiveness to more than one environmental situation. Accordingly, those in the painting trades have been forced to rely primarily upon the laborious and slow manual methods of dispensing and applying masking tapes.

It is accordingly the general object of the present invention to provide a tape dispenser-applicator for masking tapes that overcome the several disadvantages and shortcomings of the prior art.

It is a specific object of the present invention to provide an apparatus for dispensing and adherently applying masking tapes wherein a convolutely wound roll supply might be removably mounted upon the apparatus itself.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a dispenser-applicator device for masking tapes that may be employed with equal facility in the three types of situations wherein two contiguous surfaces intersect as a lineal border, to wit: the "recessed inviolate," the "elevated inviolate," and the "coplanar inviolate" situations.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide a dispenser-applicator apparatus for masking tapes that is adaptable and adjustable for a wide range of tape widths and for a great variety of surface textures to be protected by the masking tape.

It is a further object to provide a dispenser-applicator apparatus for masking tapes that is easy to employ, to repair, and to maintain in good working order.

It is yet another object to provide a dispenser-applicator apparatus for masking tapes that is of economic manufacture, light in weight, and that results in quick and easy application of making tapes to "inviolate" border areas of surfaces-to-be-painted.

With the above and other objects and advantages in view, which will become more apparent as the description proceeds, the invention comprises the novel configuration, combination, and arrangement of parts as hereinafter described, and especially as pointed out in the appended claims, reference being had to the accompanying drawing wherein like numbers refer to like parts in the several views, and in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective elevational view of a representative form of the tape dispenser of the present invention as seen from the outward side thereof.

FIG. 2 is an elevational view of the tape dispenser embodiment of FIG. 1 as seen from the inward side thereof and particularly showing a spacer means and an elongate strip of pressure-sensitive adhesive tape being applied onto a planar panel with said tape dispenser.

FIG. 3 is a sectional plan view taken along line 3—3 of FIG. 2 and particularly showing said elongate strip of pressure-sensitive adhesive tape being applied onto a planar panel immediately adjacent to a vertically-extending elongate boundary-frame e.g. a "recessed inviolate" situation.

FIG. 4 is a sectional elevational view taken along line 4—4 of FIG. 2.

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of an alternate form of the spacer means component that is particularly adapted for applying pressure-sensitive adhesive tape onto a vertically-

extending elongate decorative rib e.g. an "elevated inviolate" situation.

FIG. 6 is a sectional plan view similar to that of FIG. 3 wherein the alternate spacer means of FIG. 5 is employed and wherein an elongate strip of pressure-sensitive adhesive is being applied onto a vertically-extending lofty decorative rib immediately adjacent to a recessed surface-to-be-painted.

The tape dispenser-applicator apparatus T of the present invention comprises an upright frame member e.g. **10**, having an upright inward side, an upright outward side, a forward end, a rearward end, an upper end, and a lower end; a tape-roll mounting means e.g. **20**, positioned on the frame inward side and adapted to revolvably attach a convolutely wound tape roll about a transverse reference axis e.g. **18**, said axis extending a finite distance inwardly of the upright frame; an elongate forwardly-disposed runner e.g. **30**, attached to the frame and extending transversely inwardly from the frame member lower end, said forward runner having an elongate lower surface that includes a major uniplanar portion, said forward-runner having a transverse forward end e.g. **33**, that is substantially parallel to the said transverse axis of the tape-roll mounting means and that is adapted to transversely sever a strip of tape; a tape guidance means e.g. **40**, disposed between the transverse axis of the tape-roll mounting means and the uniplanar lower side of the forward-runner, said tape guidance means including a curvilinearly generated rearward portion that is substantially parallel to the transverse axis of the tape-roll mounting means; at least one handle extending transversely outwardly of the frame member outward side; and transversely-adjustable inwardly-extending spacer means e.g. **60**, **90**, attached to the lower portion of the upright frame rearwardly of the forward-runner.

Upright frame member **10** is preferably of the generally semicircular configuration shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 and comprises an upright inward side **11**, an upright outward side **12**, a forward end **13**, a rearward end **14**, an upper end **15**, a transverse reference axis **18** about which the tape-roll mounting means rotates, and a lower end **16** that is desirably of a horizontal linear configuration. Frame inward side **11** preferably includes a planar area extending for a finite height above frame lower end **16**, and in this vane, frame member **10** may be provided of a single piece of heavy-gauge rigid sheet metal having a pair of opposed planar surfaces, one surface of said structural sheet metal providing the frame inward side **11** and the second surface of said structural sheet metal providing the frame outward side **12**. Ancillary to the preferred embodiment fo the present invention, wherein axis **18** is vertically movable for a finite distance, frame **10** includes a vertically-extending transversely-slotted portion **17**.

Tape dispenser T of the present invention is designed to adherently apply a lengthy strip of pressure-sensitive adhesive tapes that are generally available in the customary convolutely wound roll form as illustrated in FIGS. 2 and 4. As is well known in the art, convolutely wound rolls of tape **70** comprise an elongate length of pressure-sensitive adhesive tape **71** having a constant transverse width along the length thereof, said tape being convolutely wound about a tubular core **72** and the axial length of tubular core **72** being substantially equal to the transverse width of tape **71**.

There are tape-roll mounting means positioned on the inward side **11** of frame member **10** whereby said tape-roll mounting means is adapted to removably engage the central core support **72** of the tape roll **70**, said mounting means revolvably attaching said tape roll **70** about a transverse reference axis **18** of frame member **10**. Transverse reference axis **18** extends inwardly a finite distance from frame member inward side **11**, and desirably, transverse axis **18** is at the elongate center of a transverse axle **21** that is substantially perpendicular to a planar inward side **11** of frame **10**. Moreover, the inward extremity **22** of transverse axle **21** is preferably planar and substantially in finite distance parallelism with respect to a planar inward surface **11**. Tape-roll mounting means **20** may comprise a cylindrical hub **23** to removably engage a tape roll e.g. **70**. Hub **23** is revolvable about transverse reference axis **18**, and herein as shown in FIG. 4, hub **23** surrounds and is fixedly attached to transverse axle **21**, axle **21** being revolvably attached to frame member **10**. Of course, an equivalent means for revolvably attaching hub **23** about transverse reference axis **18** would be to utilize a non-rotatable axle **21** and to revolvably attach hub **23** to said fixed axle **21**. The transverse external surface **24** of hub **23** is preferably of a linearly-generated configuration that is parallel to reference axis **18**, and the maximum external diameter of hub **23** is substantially equivalent to the minimum internal diameter of tape-roll core **72** whereby a friction fit might be employed to removably attach tape-roll **70** to mounting means **20**.

It has been found that smooth wrinkle-free transfer of adhesive tape **71** to the uniplanar planar underside **36** of forward runner **30** is facilitated when the outward convolute layer **76** of tape roll **70** is in abutment with the tape-guidance means e.g. **40**. However, inasmuch as the outermost convolute layer **76** steadily recedes radially toward core **72** as tape is constantly withdrawn from tape roll **70**, provision must be made to constantly diminish the distance between core **72** and the tape-guidance means if contact between outermost convolution **76** and the said tape-guidance means is to be maintained. In this vane, it has been found desirable to position transverse axle **21** within the vertically-extending transverse slot **17** of frame member **10**, the vertical height of frame slot **17** exceeding the vertical cross-sectional dimension of that portion of transverse axle **21** disposed within slot **17** whereby axle **21** and reference axis **18** are adapted to reciprocate vertically within frame transverse slot **17**. Ancillary to a vertically reciprocatable cylindrical transverse axle **21** is a longitudinal arm member **25** positioned alongside the frame member outward side **12**; the forward portion of arm member **25** is pivotably attached to frame member **10** nearer to frame forward end **13** than to frame rearward **14** as by means of transverse pivot pin **26**. Transverse axle **21** is revolvably attached to the rearward portion of arm member **25** whereby said preferred mounting means embodiment (transverse axle **21** and revolvable cy- alongside frame member inward side **11** and the outermost convolute layer **76** is automatically maintained in contact with the tape-guidance means as tape **71** is being withdrawn from roll **70**.

There is an elongate runner **30** disposed nearer to frame forward end **13** than to frame rearward end **14**. Forward-runner **30** extends horizontally inwardly from frame bottom end **16** for a finite distance, and preferably, forward-runner **30** has an elongate linear inward extremity **31** that is substantially perpendicular to transverse reference axis **18**. The lower side **36** of forward-runner **30** includes a substantially uniplanar and horizontal major portion commencing at transverse forward end **33** and extending longitudinally rearwardly therefrom whereby said forward-runner uniplanar lower surface provides the lower extremity of tape dispenser T. An L-shaped transverse cross-sectional configuration for the rearward portion of forward-runner **30** including an upright flange **32** provides a convenient means for removably attaching forward-runner **30** to frame member **10**; in this vane, upright flange **32** abuts the planar outward side **12** of frame member **10**, and transverse screws **39** pass through suitable transverse perforations of upright flange **32** and said screws **39** are threadedly engaged with frame member **10** above lower end **16**. Removable attachment of forward-runner **30** to frame **10** is desirable when masking "inviolate" surfaces because of the necessity for employing a forward-runner having a transverse forward end **33** that is substantially equal to the transverse width of the masking tape utilized. Thus, for example, the workman who engages

extensively in masking surrounded window panes e.g. a "recessed inviolate" situation, would require several transverse sizes of removably attachable forward runners.

Transverse forward end **33** of forward-runner **30** is located nearer to frame forward end **12** than to frame rearward end **14**, and preferably, said transverse forward end **33** is disposed forwardly of frame forward end **13**. The transverse forward end **33** of forward-runner **30** is substantially parallel to transverse reference axis **18**, and comprises a knife edge or suitable serrations appropriate to transversely sever a strip of adhesive tape. Finally, the rearward portion **34** of forward-runner **30** preferably curves upwardly toward the transverse reference axis **18**; the underside of rearward portion **34** is desirably of a curvilinear configuration and parallel to reference axis **18** whereby the forwardly moving tape e.g. **71**, is transferred smoothly and without wrinkles to the uniplanar lower surface **36**.

There is a tape-guidance means component, the purpose of which is to facilitate smooth, wrinkle-free continuous transfer of tape **71** from roll **70** to the uniplanar underside **36** of forward-runner **30**. The tape-guidance means is attached to the frame **10** and is disposed on the frame inward side **11** above the forward-runner rearward end **34** and below the frame member transverse reference axis **18**. The tape-guidance means essentially comprises a curvilinearly-generated transverse rearward portion that is substantially parallel to the frame member transverse reference axis **18**, to the forward-runner transverse forward end **33**, and to the uniplanar lower side **36** of forward-runner **30**. The features of the preceeding two sentences for the tape-guidance means can be alternatively provided by an extensive upward and rearward curvature for the rearward portion of forward runner **30** toward the tape-roll mounting means, or by means of a transversely inwardly extending cylindrical stud **40** attached to frame **10**. A cylindrical stud tape-guidance means is preferred, particularly if said stud **40** is revolvably attached to frame member **10**, because such a revolvable stud offers very little frictional resistance against the tape-roll outermost convolution **76** when the preferred-type vertically-reciprocatable tape-roll mounting means is employed.

Disposed along the frame member outward side **12** and attached to frame member **10** is at least one transversely extending handle member whereby the operator may manually grasp and control tape dispenser T. As illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2, two handles **50** and **55** are preferred although but one handle is strictly necessary to the operation of tape dispenser T. Primary handle **50** has a transverse portion **51** immediately adjacent to and attached to frame outward side **12** and has a downwardly and rearwardly extending terminal portion **52** that is spaced a finite distance from and in substantial parallelism with frame outward side **12**. The downwardly and rearward extending portion **52** of primary handle **50** allows the operator to exert the required degree of pressure against forward-runner lower side **36** as will be explained later in greater detail. Auxiliary handle **55** extends transversely outwardly from frame outward side **12** for a finite distance and might be manually employed to give further stability to tape dispenser T.

The lower extremity of tape dispenser T must be uniplanar along the length thereof, and the said uniplanar lower extremity must allow the dispenser T to be firmly and stably upright abutted against the normally planar working surface without attendant rotation of dispenser T about transverse reference axis **18** while dispenser T is being manually engaged by primary handle **50**. Accordingly, the elongate length of the uniplanar bottom surface **36** of forward-runner **30** must bear a ratio of at least one-fourth the maximum dimension for frame **10**, or alternatively to such minimum one-fourth ratio, a rearward-runner e.g. **80**, would need to be employed to uprightly stabilize dispenser T upon the working surface. For exampie, the optional rearward-runner **80** extends horizontally inwardly from frame bottom end **16** for a finite distance. Lower side **86** of rearward-runner **80** includes a substantially uniplanar and horizontal major portion extending longitudinally along frame bottom end **16**, said respective lower surfaces of runners **30** and **80** being preferably in coplanar relationship. The inward extremity **33A** of the forward-runner transverse forward end e.g. at the corner juncture of **31** and **33**, is preferably disposed inwardly of the inward extremity **81** of rearward-runner **80**. Transverse forward extremity **83** of rearward-runner **80** is disposed a finite distance rearwardly of the forward-runer rearward extremity **34** whereby a finite spatial gap exists between runners **30** and **80** to accommodate forwardly withdrawn tape **71**.

An L-shaped transverse cross-sectional configuration for rearward runner **80** including an upright flange **82** provides a convenient means for removably attaching rearward-runner **80** to frame member **10**; in this vane, upright flange **82** abuts the outward side **12** off rame member **10** above its lower end **16**, and transverse screws **89** pass through suitable transverse perforations of upright flange **82** and said screws **89** are threadedly engaged with frame member **10**. The rearward portion **84** of rearward-runner **80** preferably curves upwardly and rearwardly so as to prevent "diggin-in" of tape dispenser T into planar surrounded pane **100** or into lofty decorative rib **200**, as said dispenser T moves operationally rearwardly.

An exceedingly important component of the present invention is a transversely adjustable spacer means e.g. **60**, **90**, disposed inwardly of frame member inward side **11**. Longitudinally, the spacer means component is disposed rearwardly of the forward-runner transverse forward end **33** and forward of frame rearward end **14**, and preferably, the space means is disposed rearwardly of forward-runner rearward end **34**. In vertical relationship, the spacer means is disposed between the frame member transverse reference axis **18** and the uniplanar lower extremity **36** of forward-runner **30**, nearer to said lower extremity **36**. There are two general types of transversely adjustable spacer means appropriate to the tape dispenser T of the present invention. The first type of transversely adjustable spacer means, as illustrated at **60** in FIGS. 2 and 3, is extendable inwardly of the inward extremity **33A** of forward-runner forward end **33**, such type spacer means being appropriate for masking surrounded panels e.g. a 'recessed inviolate" situation. The second type of transversely adjustable spacer means, as illustrated at **90** in FIGS. 5 and 6, has a downwardly extending flange e.g. **91**, at its linear elongate extremity, such second type spacer means being appropriate for masking lofty decorative ribs e.g. an "elevated inviolate" situation. In the "coplanar inviolate" situation either spacer means may be employed as a visual reference.

The first type of spacer means i.e. that which is extendable inwardly of the inward extremity of forward-runner forward end **33**, might simply comprise a transversely inwardly extending threaded screw **61** that is transversely threadedly engaged with frame **10**, the inward extremity **62** of the threaded-screw being preferably gently rounded to prevent injury to the lofty boundary-frame **101** which serves as an abuttable operational reference when masking the surrounded "recessed inviolate" pane as indicated in FIG. 3. However, the preferred embodiment **60** of the first type of spacer means comprises a revolvable horizontal wheel **63** that serves to preclude frictional damage to lofty boundary-frame **101** during the application of masking type **71** to inviolate transparent pane **100**. Horizontal wheel **63** is revolvably attached to an extending above the rearward portion of horizontal pivot plate **64**, the forward portion of pivot plate **64** being disposed above and pivotably attached to rearward-runner **80** nearer forward end **83** than to rearward end **84**. Inward end **62** of transverse screw **61** bears against pivot plate **64** so

as to provide a transverse adjustment for the transverse position of revolvable wheel **63**.

Operation of the tape dispenser-applicator device T in the surrounded "recessed inviolate" pane situation will now be described, reference being had in particular to FIGS. 2 and 3 of the drawing. The surrounded-pane situation comprises a normally transparent planar pane **100** surrounded by a lofty boundary-frame **101**, there being a linear juncture **102** between pane **100** and boundary-frame **101**. Assuming it is desired to paint boundary-frame **101**, and thus, temporarily shield border areas of "inviolate" transparent pane **100** with masking tape **71**, the operator withdraws a length of tape **71** from tape-roll **70** in clockwise direction as seen in FIG. 2 and draws the tape **71** against the rearward side of tape-guidance stud **40** and finally against the uniplanar lower side **36** of forward-runner **30**. The operator transversely adjusts the spacer means **60** so that revolvable wheel **63** is inward of the inward extremity **33A** of forward-runner forward end **33**. Then, with manual pressure the operator adheres the forward region **73** of tape **71** upon panel **100** along linear juncture **102** at its forward extremity e.g. at corner **103**. Next, the operator grasps handle **50** and presses the uniplanar lower extremity **36** of tool T flatly against pane **100** whereb ysaid tool is stably uprightly supported, and the operator abuts both the forward-runner inward extremity **33A** and the spacer means inward extremity **63** against the lofty boundary-frame **101** whereby transverse reference axis **18**, and herein also axle **21** is in oblique non-perpendicular relationship with respect to lofty boundary-frame **101**. Finally, the operator draws apparatus T in the rearward direction, while maintaining elements **33A** and **63** in abutment against lofty boundary-frame **101**, whereupon an elongate strip of masking tape **71** is adherently applied upon pane **100** immediately adjacent along linear border juncture **102**. It has been found that unless the spacer means is positioned inwardly of the inward extremity **33A** of forward-runner transverse forward end **33**, the masking tape **71** "creeps" progressively inwardly of linear border **102** deeply into the region of boundary-frame **101**, thus encroaching upon the surface-to-be-painted **101**. When the border line **103** has been fully traversed, the tape **71** is severed with forward runner forward end **33**.

The alternate spacer-means **90** of FIGS. 5 and 6 is appropriate to the "elevated inviolate" masking situation. Spacer means **90** does require a rearward-runner e.g. **80**, together with a downwardly-flanged transversely-adjustable spacer means **90**. Spacer means **90** is of an L-shaped transverse cross-sectional configuration including a horizontal portion **92** and a downwardly-extending inward lineal flange **91**. Spacer means **90** is preferably transversely inwardly adjustable with respect to frame **10**. In this vane, rearward-runner **80** is provided with a pair of transversely extending slots **93** and screws **94** pass through slots **93** downwardly into horizontal portion **92**. In masking decorative ribs e.g. the "elevated inviolate" situation, the uniplanar lower side **96** is firmly emplanted upon the elongate upper side **202** of lofty "inviolate" decorative rib **200**, and the outward side **91A** downwardly-extending flange **91** is concurrently firmly abutted against the upright side **201** of decorative rib **200**. The inward extremity **33A** of forward-runner transverse forward end **33** is positioned inwardly of downwardly extending flange **91** whereby inward extremity **33A** is positioned a finite distance inwardly of upright side **201** immediately above surface **205** to be painted. As tool T including spacer means **90** is actuated rearwardly along decorative rib **200**, masking tape **71** is adherently applied to upper surface **202**, the inward region **74** of tape **71** overhanging the juncture of surfaces **201** and **202**. Ultimately, the operator manually presses the overhanging inward region **74** of tape **71** against upright surface **201**. Accordingly, the transverse distance between the adjustable spacer means as flange **91** and forward-runner inward extremity **33A** should substantially equal the height of decorative rib upright side **201** in order that the inward extremity **74** of tape **71** will coincide with lineal border **204** of surface **205** and decorative rib **200**. When the border line **204** has been fully traversed, tape **71** is severed with the forward-runner forward end **33**.

From the foregoing, the construction and operation of the dispense-applicator apparatus will be readily understood and further explanation is believed to be unnecessary. However, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A dispenser apparatus for applying a lengthy strip of removably-adherent masking tape immediately adjacent along a linear border line of an elongate surface-to-be-painted, said dispenser-applicator apparatus comprising:

(A) An upright frame member including a frame forward end, a frame rearward end, a frame upper end, a frame lower end, a frame outward side, and a frame inward side;

(B) A tape-roll mounting means positioned on the inward side of the frame member, said tape-roll mounting means being adapted to removably engage the central core support of an elongate length of pressure-sensitive adhesive tape wound in convolute fashion about a central core, said tape-roll mounting means revolvably attaching said core support to said upright frame member along the frame member inward side and about a transverse axis of said frame member, said frame member transverse axis extending inwardly a finite distance from the frame member and being disposed between the frame upper and lower ends;

(C) An elongate forwardly disposed runner attached to the frame member and extending inwardly from the frame lower end, and said forward-runner lower surface including a substantially uniplanar and horizontal elongate major portion whereby the forward-runner lower surface provides the lower extremity of said tape dispenser, the forward-runner having a transverse forward end that is substantially parallel to the said frame member transverse axis, said forward-runner transverse forward end being located nearer to the frame forward end than to the frame rearward end, said forward-runner transverse forward end being adapted to transversely sever a strip of pressure-sensitive adhesive tape;

(D) A tape guidance means attached to the frame member and disposed on the frame inward side above the rearward extremity of the forward-runner uniplanar elongate lower portion, said tape guidance means being also disposed below the said frame member transverse axis, said tape guidance means including a linearly generated rearward portion that is substantially parallel to the frame member transverse axis, to the forward-runner transverse forward end, and to the uniplanar lower extremity of the forward-runner;

(E) At least one handle attached to the frame member and extending transversely outwardly of the frame member outward side; and

(F) Spacer means attached to the frame member and extending transversely inwardly of the frame member inward side, said spacer means being transversely adjustable with respect to the frame member inward side, said transversely adjustable spacer means being disposed wholly rearwardly of and extendable parallel to the transverse axis and being disposed between

the frame member transverse axis and the uniplanar lower extremity of the forward-runner.

2. The dispenser-applicator apparatus of claim 1 wherein the tape-roll mounting means engages and surrounds a transversely disposed axle that is coextensive along the frame member transverse axis, said transverse axle being disposed within a vertically-extending transversely-slotted portion of the frame member; wherein the vertical height of the frame member slotted portion exceeds the vertical cross-sectional dimension of that portion of the horizontal axle disposed within the frame member transversely slotted portion whereby said horizontal axle is adapted to reciprocate vertically within said frame member slotted portion; wherein a longitudinal arm member is positioned alongside the outward side of the frame member, the forward portion of said longitudinal arm being pivotably attached to the frame member forwardly of the transversely-slotted portion with a pivot pin, and the rearward portion of the longitudinal arm being attached to the horizontal axle whereby said tape-roll mounting means is adapted to reciprocate vertically alongside the frame member inward side; wherein there is an elongate rearward-runner attached to the frame member and extending inwardly from the lower end, the rearward-runner lower surface including a substantially uniplanar and horizontal elongate major portion, the inward extremity of the forward-runner transverse forward end being disposed inwardly of the inward extremity of the rearward-runner, the forward extremity of the rearward-runner being disposed a finite distance rearwardly of the forward-runner rearwad extremity whereby a finite spatial gap exists between the forward-runner and the rearward runner; and wherein the tape guidance means comprises a transversely-extending revolvable stud having a linearly-generated transverse external surface that is substantially parallel to the said transverse axle.

3. The dispenser-applicator apparatus of claim 2 wherein the frame member inward side includes a planar area extending for a finite height above the frame member lower end; wherein the said frame member transversely slotted portion is disposed within the planar area of the frame member inward side; wherein the tape-roll mounting means comprises a cylindrical hub having a transverse external surface that is substantially parallel to the transverse external surface of said revolvable stud said cylindrical hub being revolvable about the frame member transverse axis; and wherein the rearward portion of the forward-runner commencing at the rearward extremity thereof curves upwardly toward said revolvable stud.

4. The dispenser-applicator apparatus of claim 1 wherein the spacer means comprises an elongate rearward-runner attached to the frame member and extending inwardly from the frame member lower end, the forward extremity of the rearward-runner being disposed a finite distance rearwardly of the forward-runner rearward extremity whereby a finite spatial gap exists between the forward-runner and the rearward-runner, said rearward-runner including a downwardly-extending flanged portion having a substantially planar outward side that is substantially perpendicular to the frame member transverse axis and to the transverse forward end of the forward-runner, said rearward-runner downwardly-extending flanged portion terminating below the forward-runner lower surface, said rearward-runner downwardly-extending flanged portion being transversely adjustable with respect to the frame member inward side.

5. The dispenser-applicator apparatus of claim 4 wherein the rearward-runner is removably attached to the frame member, said rearward-runner having a lower surface that is predominately substantially uniplanar and horizontal; and wherein the tape guidance means comprises a horizontal cylindrical stud revolvably attached to the frame member above the rearward extremity of the forward-runner and below the transverse axis of the frame member, the curvilinear transverse external surface of said horizontal cylindrical revolvable stud being substantially parallel to the frame member transverse axis and to the transverse forward end of the forward-runner.

6. The dispenser-applicator apparatus of claim 3 wherein the spacer means comprises a horizontal wheel revolvably attached to a horizontal plate, said horizontal plate being disposed above and pivotably attached to the rearward-runner whereby said horizontal wheel is also disposed above the rearward-runner, and a transverse screw threadedly engaged with the frame member and extending inwardly of the frame member whereby the inward end of said transverse screw is adapted to bear against said horizontal pivot plate remote of its pivotal connection to the rearward-runner.

7. A dispenser apparatus for applying a lengthy strip of removably-adherent masking tape immediately adjacent along the linear border line of a surface-to-be-painted, said dispenser-applicator apparatus comprising:

(A) An upright frame member including a frame forward end, a frame rearward end, a frame upper end, a frame outward side, and a frame inward side, said frame member having a vertically-extending transversely-slotted portion, said frame member having a transverse horizontal axis disposed within the frame member transversely-slotted portion and between the frame member upper and lower ends;

(B) A tape-roll mounting means positioned on the inward side of the frame member, said tape-roll mounting means being adapted to removably engage the central core support of an elongate length of pressure-sensitive removably-adherent masking tape wound in convolute fashion about a central core, said tape-roll mounting means revolvably attaching said core support to said frame member and along the frame member inward side about the transverse axis of said frame member, a transverse axle that is coextensive along the frame member transverse axis and attached to the frame member, said transverse axis being disposed within the transversely-slotted portion of the frame member, said tape-roll mounting means being attached to the said transverse axle and extending inwardly of the frame inward side, the vertical height of the frame member transversely-slotted portion exceeding the vertical cross-sectional dimension of that portion of the transverse axle disposed within the frame member transversely-slotted portion whereby said transverse horizontal axle and attached tape-roll mounting means are adapted to reciprocate vertically toward a tape guidance means;

(C) An elongate forwardly disposed runner attached to the frame member and extending inwardly from the frame lower end, the said forward-runner lower surface including a substantially uniplanar and horizontal elongate major portion whereby the forward-runner lower surface provides the lower extremity of said tape dispenser, the forward-runner having a transverse forward end that is substantially parallel to the said frame member transverse axis, said forward-runner transverse forward end being located nearer to the frame forward end than to the frame rearward end, said forward-runner transverse forward end being adapted to transversely sever a strip of pressure-sensitive tape;

(D) A tape guidance means comprising a horizontal cylindrical stud revolvably attached to the frame member above the rearward extremity of the forwardly disposed runner uniplanar elongate lower portion and below the said transverse horizontal axle, the curvilinear transverse external surface of said horizontal cylindrical revolvable stud being substantially parallel to the frame member transverse axis and to the transverse forward end of the forwardly disposed runner; and

(E) At least one handle attached to the frame mem-

ber and extending transversely outwardly of the frame member outward side.

8. The dispenser-applicator apparatus of claim 7 wherein the frame member inward side includes a planar area extending for a finite height above the frame member lower end; wherein the said frame member transversely-slotted portion is disposed within the planar area of the frame member inward side; wherein there is an elongate rearward-runner attached to the frame member and extending inwardly from the frame member lower end, the rearward-runner lower surface including a substantially uniplanar and horizontal elongate major portion, the inward extremity of the forward-runner transverse forward end being disposed inwardly of the inward extremity of the rearward-runner, the forward extremity of the rearward-runner being disposed a finite distance rearwardly of the forward-runner rearward extremity whereby a finite spatial gap exists between the forward-runner and the rearward-runner; wherein the rearward portion of the forward-runner commencing at the rearward extremity thereof curves upwardly toward the revolvable stud guidance means; and wherein there are at least two handles attached to the frame member and extending transversely outwardly of the frame member outward side, one of said two handles being a primary handle having a transverse portion immediately adjacent to the frame member outward side and having a downwardly-rearwardly extending terminal portion that is spaced a finite distance from and in substantial parallelism with the frame member outward side, the second of said two handles being as a transverse outwardly extending auxiliary handle that is disposed forwardly of the primary handle.

9. A dispenser apparatus for applying a lengthy strip of removably-adherent tape immediately adjacent along the linear border line of a surface-to-be-painted, said dispenser-applicator apparatus including a revolvable tape-roll mounting means that is adapted to removably engage the central core support of a convolutely wound tape roll and comprising:

(A) A longitudinally extending frame member including a frame rearward end, a frame forward end, a frame outward side, and a frame inward side;

(B) A longitudinally extending arm member positioned alongside the frame member, said arm member nearer to one end thereof revolvably supporting said tape-roll mounting means, and said arm member nearer to the other end thereof being pivotably attached to the frame member with a transverse pivot pin, said tape-roll mounting means being disposed on the frame member inward side, said pivotal arm member having a sufficient degree of freedom with respect to the frame member and being of sufficiently extensive length that a convolute tape roll removably engaged with the said tape-roll mounting means is adapted to physically contact a tape guidance means;

(C) Said tape guidance means comprises a transversely disposed revolvable cylindrical stud positioned on the frame member inward side forwardly of the said tape-roll mounting means and forwardly of the said transverse pivot pin; and

(D) At least one rearwardly extending handle attached to the frame member.

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