Jan. 3, 1961 J. E. DWYER 2,966,695

UNITIZED SEVERABLE DRAPERY CARRIERS

Filed July 15, 1957

Fig-1-

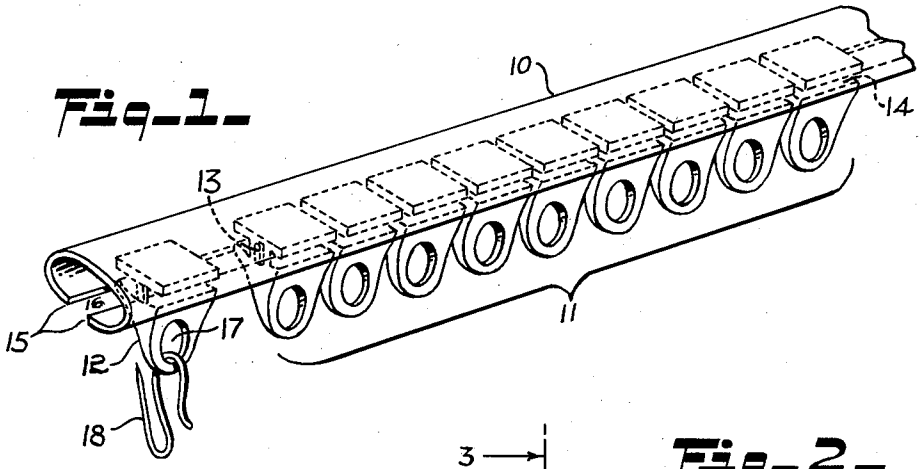


Fig-2-

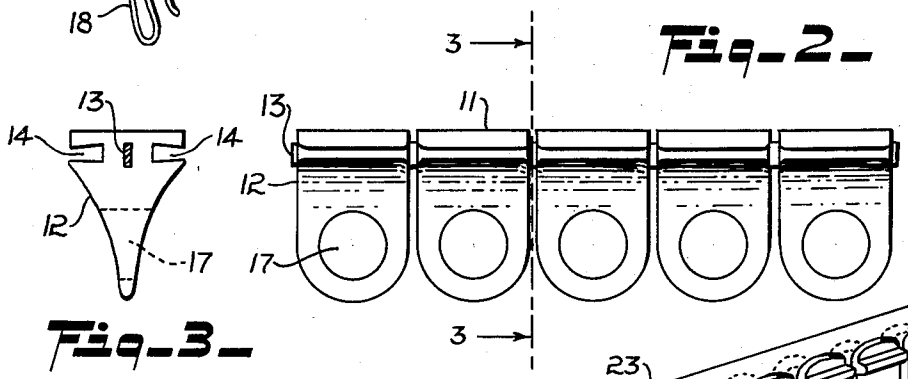


Fig-3-

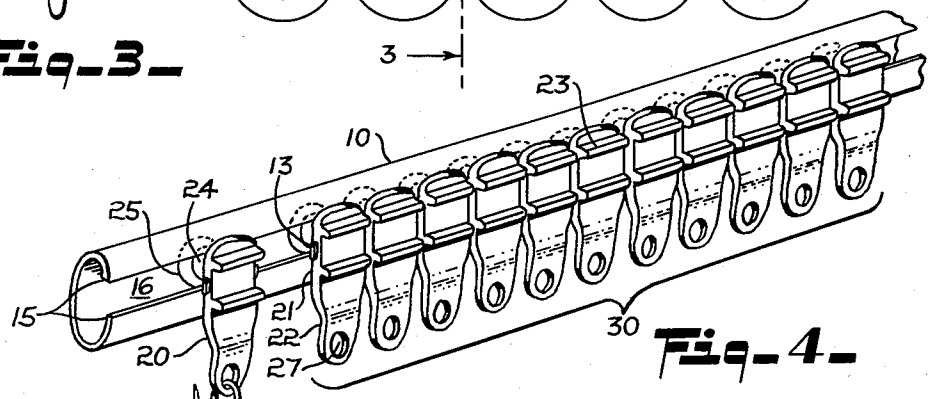


Fig-4-

Fig-6-

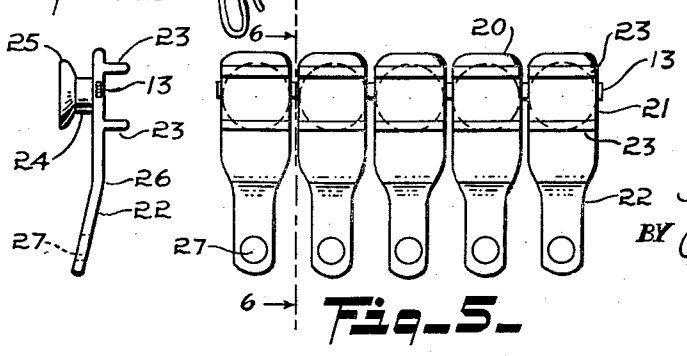


Fig-5-

INVENTOR
JAMES E. DWYER
BY A Dunham Clewes
ATTORNEY

United States Patent Office 2,966,695
Patented Jan. 3, 1961

2,966,695

UNITIZED SEVERABLE DRAPERY CARRIERS

James E. Dwyer, P.O. Box 3689, San Francisco, Calif.

Filed July 15, 1957, Ser. No. 671,876

1 Claim. (Cl. 16—93)

This invention relates to improvements in mechanism for slidably supporting hangings such as curtains and drapes. More particularly my invention relates to traverse fixtures having a plurality of slidable carriers each adapted to receive a hook secured to the top edge of a drape.

For years the practice had been to assemble in each channel-shaped traverse the desired number of slidable carriers. This had to be done as a hand operation with the insertion of the carriers into the traverse one at a time. The operator was also required to count out individually the number of carriers needed for the particular length of traverse being assembled. Going back one step further, to the factory where the carriers were made, an operator was required to count out the carriers to go into each box, because being of irregular shape, machine counting was impractical. Counting by weighing also was uneconomical because to assure a full count, each box necessarily included several extra carriers.

These problems have been solved by the present invention, which has for its object to provide for the manufacture of the individual carriers as a unit, each unit containing a predetermined number of individual carriers which are secured to each other by a severable connecting portion, and thereby to achieve economies and benefits in the factory where the carriers are molded, to provide quick and accurate assembly where the carriers are assembled in the traverse, and to provide means by which the user can quickly separate the carriers into individual slidable supporting members.

Other objects and advantages of my invention will become apparent from the following description. The illustrative embodiment set out in the drawings and described in detail herein is not intended to limit the scope of the invention as described in the appended claims, but rather is intended to comply with 35 U.S.C. 112.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a view in perspective of a ceiling mounted type of traverse with a unitized group of carriers embodying the principles of the invention, one carrier being severed from the group. One end of the traverse is broken off in order to conserve space.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged side elevation view of part of the group of carriers shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is an end view of the carriers shown in Fig. 2, taken along the line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a view in perspective of a wall type traverse with a modified form of a unitized group of carriers also embodying the principles of the invention, one carrier being severed from the group. One end of the traverse is broken off in order to conserve space.

Fig. 5 is an enlarged view in side elevation of part of the group of carriers shown in Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is an end view of the unitized carriers shown in Fig. 5 taken along the line 6—6 of Fig. 5.

In the drawings, a traverse or track **10** slidably supports a unitized group of carriers **11** and **30**. Each group **11**, **30** comprises a plurality of individual carriers **12**, **20** connected in series by webs **13**. The webs **13** are of small cross-sectional area relative to the carriers **12**, **20** so that they are easily fractured, thereby separating the individual, independent carriers **12**, **20**.

Two main types of individual carriers **12**, **20** are shown: the carriers **12** represent the type used for ceiling hanging (Figs. 1, 2, 3) and the carriers **20** represent the type used for wall hanging (Figs. 4, 5, 6).

Each ceiling-type carrier **12** may have a slot or channel **14** on opposite sides, into which the edges **15** of the traverse channel **16** fit in slidable engagement. Each carrier **12** has a hole **17** in its lower portion, through which a drapery hook **18** may be placed, as shown in the left-hand side of Fig. 1.

The carriers **20**, which are used to hang drapes, etc. from walls, are of a somewhat different shape. Each one has an upper portion **21** and a lower portion **22**. The outward facing side of the upper portion **21** may have two parallel, horizontal raised members **23** which serve to strengthen the thin body of the carrier **20**.

On the opposite side, the upper portion **21** has a circular spacer **24** with a larger circular button-like portion **25** at its outward end, which prevents the carrier **20** from slipping out of the channel **16**. The carriers **20** are inserted into the channel **16**, by placing the spacer **24** between the edges **15**, and then pushing them along the channel until all are within the traverse **10**.

The lower or depending portion **22** of the carrier **20** may be narrower than the upper portion **21**, and may have a slight bend **26** away from the outward facing side to bring the drape or other hanging material in as close against the wall as possible. Below the bend **26** is a hole **27**, through which, as with the hole **17** of the carrier **12**, a drapery hook **18** may be placed.

When the unitized carriers **30** are inserted into the traverse **11**, and then broken apart, each carrier **20** is rotatable and will allow the drape to swing freely.

As stated earlier, this invention is characterized by the fact that the individual carriers **12**, **20** are joined by the webbing **13** in unitized groups **11**, **30**. When the groups **11**, **30** are being molded, an appropriate number of carriers **12**, **20** may be formed. The number chosen may be whatever is deemed desirable, and in any event, the employment of a standard number per group makes the carriers **12**, **20** easy to count for shipping, uniform packing, etc. Then, when the unitized groups **11**, **30** are to be assembled in any particular traverse **10**, the assembler may break off a smaller group to fit the circumstances or may put in two or more groups or portions thereof and insert them. Later on, whoever insalls the drapes may buy an assembled traverse containing grouped carriers. When hanging the drapes, he breaks the webbing **13**, either by inserting a small wedge-like tool between successive carriers **12**, **20** or merely by a snapping motion of his hand during insertion of the drapery hook **18** into the hole **17** or **27**.

The problems presented during the manufacture, counting, boxing and installing of individual carriers have been eliminated by this invention, for the carriers are molded in unitized groups **11**, **30** with the webbings **13** holding them together. Thus, counting out a shipment, which before could be done only by handling each individual carrier **12**, **20** separately, is now done quickly and easily, say ten or twenty or fifty at a time. Shipping is also expedited, and when the unitized groups **11**, **30** arrive at their destination, the assembly is a simple matter of inserting into the traverse **10** a group **11**, **30** including the desired number of carriers. Insertion as a group thus eliminates the bothersome and time-consuming feeding of one carrier at a time into the traverse, while trying to remember how many already have been inserted. The

individual carriers **12**, **20** are conveniently maintained as a group until just before use, when they are broken apart from the unitized group **11**, **30** either by twisting when inserting the drapery hooks or as a separate operation with a screw driver or similar tool.

To those skilled in the art to which this invention relates, changes in construction and differing embodiments and applications of the invention will suggest themselves without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. The disclosures and the description herein are purely illustrative and are not intended to be in any sense limiting.

I claim:

In a device for supporting hangings such as draperies and the like comprising track means having a traverse channel with the edges thereof running substantially parallel to the centerline of said track means, the combination therewith of: curtain supporting means comprising a relatively long integral carrier unit having aligned like body members, each such member having an upper portion and a lower portion with said upper portion of each body member having a pair of aligned grooves running lengthwise of said unit on opposite sides thereof adapted to slidably engage the edges of said traverse channel; a plurality of equally spaced aligned holes in said lower portion, one in each body member

and each hole adapted to receive a drapery hook attached to the edge of a curtain; and severable connecting web joints spaced along said integral carrier unit between said body members, said web joints being breakable to form separate carriers from said aligned body members; whereby upon assembly of said aligned body members in said track means, said aligned body members comprise a unitary strip and after said members have been inserted in said track means, said connecting web joints are broken and said individual body members are then free to move independently in said traverse channel.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

2,229,998	Corner	Jan. 28, 1941
2,320,308	Silverman	May 25, 1943
2,335,294	Meyer	Nov. 30, 1943
2,338,735	Person	Jan. 11, 1944
2,435,561	Spinner	Feb. 3, 1948
2,450,448	Sawyer	Oct. 5, 1948
2,541,592	Lietaert	Feb. 13, 1951
2,654,114	Graber et al.	Oct. 6, 1953
2,848,734	Ault	Aug. 26, 1958
2,848,735	Ault et al.	Aug. 26, 1958