Nov. 7, 1950 S. J. WEINZIMMER 2,528,848

SKIRT AND CURTAIN SUPPORTING CONSTRUCTION

Filed March 30, 1946

Fig. 1



Fig. 2

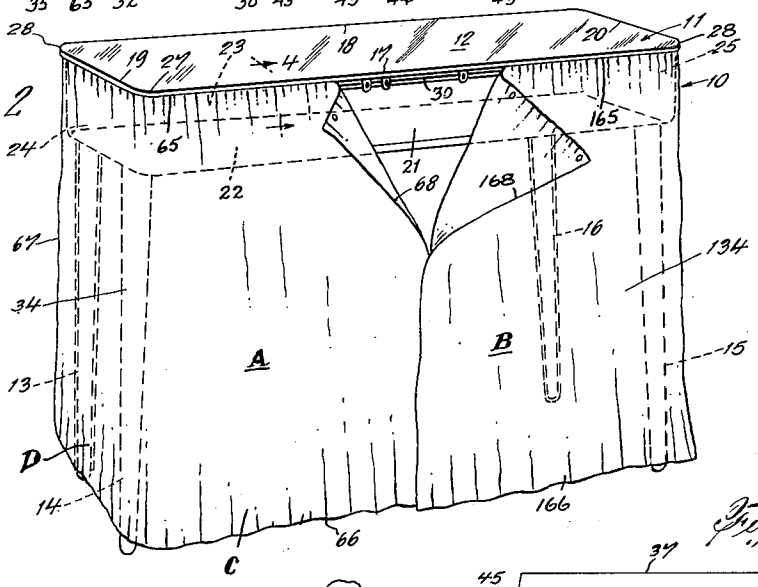
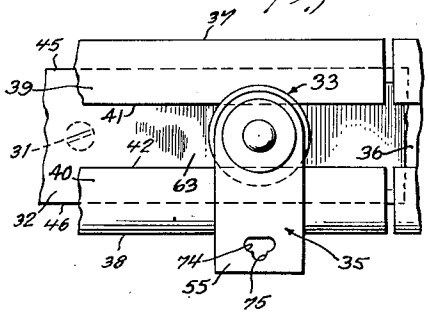


Fig. 3



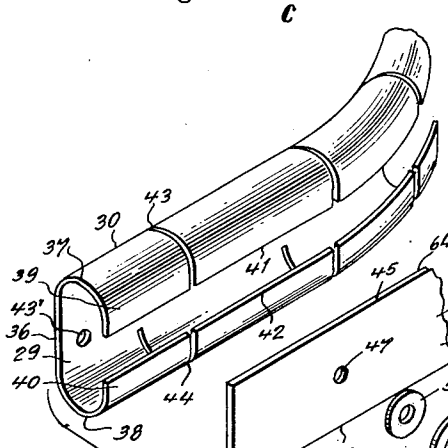


Fig. 4

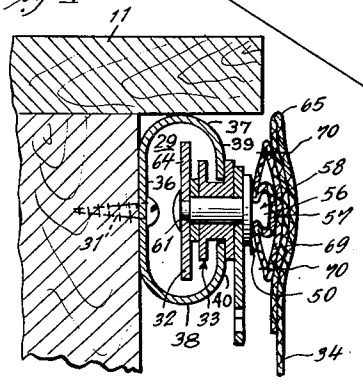
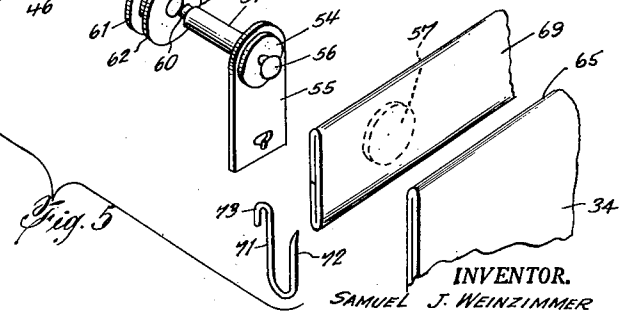


Fig. 5



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SKIRT AND CURTAIN SUPPORTING CONSTRUCTION

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5 Claims. (Cl. 16—87.6)

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This invention relates generally to skirt and curtain supporting constructions and more particularly to that which is suited for the adjustable support of skirts about dressing tables or the like.

It has been known to place about the forward and side edges of a dressing table a skirt which is shiftable in position so that when the skirt is closed, the drawers or various articles beneath the table top are concealed and when the skirt is opened such articles are available for easy accessibility.

Such constructions have been largely confined to two types, one in which the skirts are carried by pivotally mounted arms to have a door like action and another in which the skirts are slidably mounted upon rods in a fashion similar to that utilized in connection with window curtains. The principal objection to the last mentioned form lies in the fact that the upper edge of the skirt tends to bunch, gather and clog along the rod used for mounting the same so that said skirts are inconvenient in use and unsightly in appearance. A further objection lies in the fact that upon each manipulation of the last mentioned skirts redraping is necessary to produce the desired appearance.

It is therefore among the objects of the present invention to provide a skirt supporting construction in which when it is desired to have access to the area beneath the table top the skirts may be independently moved in a unitary fashion so that the area desired to be uncovered is quickly cleared and upon bringing the skirts back to the closed position thereof they resume their original draped appearance.

Another object herein lies in the provision of structure of the class described wherein the main channel is quickly and easily secured in place upon the surface or in association with the ledge with which it is desired to use the present device and said main channel is quickly and easily made to conform to the contour of the surface or ledge with which it is used.

Another object herein lies in the provision of main channel structure which may be conveniently severed without the use of tools or without the use of special tools to conform to the length of the area with which it is desired to use the skirt.

Another object herein lies in the provision of a device of the character described wherein the curtain as a unit offers very little resistance to quick manipulation in the opening and closing operations thereof.

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A still further object lies in the provision of means whereby the skirt elements are quickly and easily attached and detached with respect to the elongated carrier element in a plurality of different manners so that the skirt may be readily interchanged for a different decorative effect, or may be laundered.

A feature of the invention lies in the fact that the positioning of one set of detachably engageable fastener members may be correlated with the remaining set so as to produce a predetermined draped appearance in the upper portions of the skirt or skirts.

Another feature of the invention lies in the fact that when it is desired to shift any of the skirt elements, they may be grasped at any desired point and by virtue of their connection to the elongated carrier element the entire skirt may be shifted as desired.

These objects and other incidental ends and advantages will more fully appear in the progress of this disclosure and be pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings in which similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several views:

Figure 1 is a front elevational view of an embodiment of the invention with the skirt elements removed and prior to bending the same to conform to the article of furniture with which it is associated.

Figure 2 is a view in perspective showing the embodiment of Figure 1 connected to an article of furniture and with the skirt elements partially disconnected therefrom.

Figure 3 is an enlarged fragmentary front elevational view of a portion of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is an enlarged fragmentary vertical sectional view as seen from the plane 4—4 on Figure 2.

Figure 5 is a fragmentary exploded view.

While I have chosen to illustrate my invention in connection with a pair of dressing table skirts associated with a dressing table, by way of example, as will be obvious to those skilled in the art and to which the present invention relates the present construction may be utilized in connection with skirts or curtains movably associated with or mounted upon the margins of various types of furniture, building or other comparable openings.

In accordance with the invention the device generally indicated by reference character 10 may be of any suitable size, and may be broken up into any desired number of units. By way of

illustration, I have shown a dressing table 11 having a top surface 12 and a plurality of legs 13, 14, 15, and 16. The top 12 has a front edge 17, a rear edge 18 and side edges 19 and 20. Below the top 12 is an annular apron 21 having a front portion 22, a rear portion 23 and side portions 24 and 25.

In the illustrated embodiment there are two units A and B which are substantially identical except that one may be referred to as a left hand unit and the other as a right hand unit. For the purpose of avoiding needless repetition only the unit A is described in detail and certain parts in unit B are given the same reference characters with the addition of a prefix 1.

The present construction comprises broadly a main mounting or frame element 30; means 31 to secure the element 30 to the article with which it is used; an elongated carrier element 32; means 33 for movably mounting the carrier element upon the frame element; a skirt element 34; and means detachably attaching the skirt element to the carrier element, indicated by reference character 35.

The frame element 30 is preferably fabricated in relatively long strips. Element 30 includes a rear wall 36, top and bottom wall portions 37 and 38 respectively, and upper and lower front wall portions 39 and 40, which have upper and lower edges 41 and 42, respectively. The edges 41 and 42 are oppositely disposed and spaced a substantial distance. Thus, the frame element 30 has a hollow channel 29. At a plurality of spaced points longitudinally disposed on the rear wall 36, said wall is provided with a plurality of orifices 43' which may be penetrated by suitable means such as the screw means 31 serving to secure said frame element 30 to the apron 21.

At spaced intervals along the frame element 30 the upper and lower front wall portions 39 and 40, as well as the top and bottom wall portions 37 and 38 are severed by a plurality of upper and lower notches 43 and 44. By virtue of the last mentioned notches, the frame element may be bent to conform the same to the contours of the article of furniture upon which it is applied. For example, in the dressing table 11 shown, the frame element may be bent to conform to the corners 27 and 28. The acuteness of the bends which the frame element may make will be limited by the flexibility of the carrier element described below. Not only do the notches 43 and 44 permit the frame element 30 to be bent, but by making several bends in line with a given pair of notches the metal or other materials in the rear wall 36 may become fatigued so that said frame element may be readily broken at that point, thus obviating the need for other cutting means. It is preferable that the effective width of the notches or indentations 43 and 44 be relatively narrow and while exaggerated in size in the drawings for the purpose of clarity, they may in fact be ordinary shearing slits. While I have shown the top and bottom wall portions 37 and 38 as being semi-cylindrical in cross-section, they may, where desired, be relatively square and flat.

The carrier element 32 is preferably in the form of an elongated strip of flexible material. The operation of my device is enhanced when the carrier element is composed of resilient material. Such material may include spring brass, spring steel, or the like. The carrier element 32 has a front surface 63, a rear surface 64, a top edge 45, and a bottom edge 46. Preferably equidistantly disposed between the top and bottom edges 45 and 46, the element 32 is provided with a plurality of spaced orifices 47. The distances between the orifices 47 is preferably uniform and may be of any suitable amount. Intervals of three, four, or five inches have been found satisfactory. The preferred inter-spacing of the orifices 47 will depend upon the stiffness of the fastener tape or the upper edge of the skirt element as will more fully appear. It is desirable that the distance between the top edge 45 and the bottom edge 46 be less than the effective distance between the inner opposed surfaces of the top wall 37 and the bottom wall 38.

At each of the points of vertical support of the skirt element, there is provided an assembly generally indicated by reference character 50. The construction of the assembly is best seen in Figures 4 and 5, and includes an axle 51, a wheel 52, a washer 53, a flange 54, integral with the outer end of the axle 51, a hook receiving plate 55 and a fastener member 56. The fastener member 56 together with the fastener member 57 form the detachably attachable connecting element 58. While I have shown the male member 56 as being connected with the assembly 50 and the female member 57 as being connected with the skirt element, obviously these parts may be reversed if desired.

The axle 51 includes a shoulder portion 59 and a rear terminal 60 of reduced diameter. The plate 55 may be loosely mounted upon the axle 51 or may be integral with the flange 54. The wheel 52 includes two peripheral flanges 61 and 62 which are spaced from each other a distance substantially equal to or greater than the thickness of the upper and lower front wall portions 39 and 40. In assembled condition of the assembly 50, the shoulder portion 59 abuts against the forward surface 63 and the combined axial thickness of the washer 53 and the wheel 52 is such that the wheel may freely rotate about said axle. The effective external diameter of the wheel 52 between the flanges 61 and 62 is preferably slightly less than the distance between the edges 41 and 42. The parts may be maintained in the assembled position thereof by swaging over the rear terminal 60 on the rear surface 64 to form a rivet head 61.

The skirt element 34 has an upper edge 65, a lower edge 66, an outer vertical edge 67 and an inner vertical edge 68, and is preferably composed of a flexible planar material. Depending upon the fullness of the draping effect desired the length of the cloth between the vertical edge 67 and 68 may be equal to or in excess of the length of the carrier element 32 with which it is detachably connectable. Where the length is greater, the upper portion below the edge 65 may have preformed gathers therein. Different methods may be used in detachably connecting the skirt element 34 to the carrier element 32, utilizing the structure described. In one manner, a plurality of fastener members 57 are connected to the skirt element 34 adjacent the upper edge 65 thereof. The fastener members 57 may be in the form of female fastener members of a well known type which are secured directly to the fabric of which the skirt 34 is composed. Alternately, the members 57 may be previously integrated with a well known snap fastener tape 69 which is in turn secured to the upper portion of the skirt 34 in any suitable manner as for example by the rows of stitches 70. In the last mentioned construction the members 57 are spaced along the upper edge portion of the skirt 34 distances substantially equal to the spacing between

the members 56 on the carrier element 32. Where desired, instead of the fastener members 57 and the associated structure, a plurality of well known drapery hooks similar to the hook 71 may be used. The hooks 71 have the pointed portion 72 inserted in the upper portion of the skirt 34 while the hook portion 73 is engaged within the irregularly shaped opening 74. The opening 74 is horizontally elongated in the upper portion thereof and has a central downwardly directed indentation 75.

In a preferred arrangement pursuant to the invention the track or frame element 30 extends beyond the normal length of the carrier element 32 a distance substantially equal to the space which it is desired to clear when the skirt element 34 is laterally shifted longitudinally of the frame element 30. With the skirt element connected to the several assemblies 50 by the snap fasteners or hooks previously described, the inner vertical edge of the skirt element 34, preferably adjacent the upper edge 65 thereof, may be manually grasped and moved to the left as viewed in Figure 2. The movement of the skirt element is transmitted to the carrier element which on the rollers or wheels 52 slides easily along the path made for it by the frame element. Thus, the portion C may be moved to occupy the area formerly occupied by the portion D while the portion D will move generally rearwardly to lie rearwardly of and below the rear apron portion 23. The other skirt element is capable of corresponding operation.

Obviously, any suitable means may be utilized for securing the frame element or track 30 to the article of furniture 11. Thus, where the article is composed of sheet metal, the screws 31 may be of that type. Where the track is installed at the factory it may be welded or riveted in place.

While I have described the notches 43 and 44 as being relatively narrow in a horizontal direction, these notches may be widened to permit the track to form concave bends in the direction of the opening between the edges 41 and 42. The degree of widening of said notches will depend upon the degree of arcuately concave bends required so that buckling of the form of the track even when the track is made of light weight material may be minimized. While I have implied that the manufacture of several of the parts would be satisfactory if said parts were composed of metal they may be made of other materials, as for example, plastics. The principal special requirements are that the rear wall 36 be bendable and that the carrier element be flexible and preferably resilient. Where it is intended that the structure be used in connection with rectilinear arrangement of the track element the notches therein may be omitted with a consequent loss of their function. Even on straight runs, however, the notches assist in breaking the track to the desired length. By virtue of the fact that the distance between the upper and lower edges 45 and 46 of the carrier element is greater than the distance between the edges 41 and 42 on the track element relatively thin stock may be utilized for the carrier element with a consequent reduction in cost and weight without undesirable buckling occurring in the carrier element as the buckling is limited by the distance between the front surface of the rear wall 36 and the rear surfaces of the front wall portions 39 and 40. Where it is desired to limit the movement of the carrier element longitudinally with respect to the track element, the track element may be pinched

at the ends thereof or detents formed by forwardly upsetting the portion of the rear wall or rearwardly upsetting the front wall portion or portions at set points.

I wish it to be understood that I do not desire to be limited to the exact details of construction shown and described for obvious modifications will occur to a person skilled in the art.

I claim:

1. For use with an article of furniture and a skirt therefor, structure for movably mounting said skirt with respect to said article, comprising: an elongated track element having a plurality of transverse notches spaced therealong whereby said track element may be bent to conform the same to the contours of said article; an elongated flexible unitary carrier element which changes in shape to conform to the shape of the path of travel of the carrier element as it moves along the track element, and at least longer than the distance between two of said notches which are next to each other; means supporting said carrier element on said track element including a plurality of members fixed in position and spaced along said carrier element and supported thereby, said members engaging said track for guiding the movement of the carrier element along the track element, whereby said members are inhibited against entering said notches individually and the carrier element is movable as a unit parallel to said track element.

2. Structure as claimed in claim 1 including means to detachably attach said skirt to the carrier element.

3. Structure as claimed in claim 1 including means to attach the track element to article of furniture.

4. For use with an article of furniture and a skirt therefor, structure for movably mounting said skirt with respect to said article, comprising: an elongated track element including a rear wall, a bottom wall portion, and a lower front wall portion having a lower free edge; said bottom wall portion, lower front wall portion, and free edge having a plurality of transverse notches spaced therealong whereby said track element may be bent to conform the same to the contours of said article, said notches changing in size to accommodate to the bending of said rear wall; a unitary carrier element; means for attaching said skirt to said carrier element; said carrier element being in the form of an elongated strip of bendable material which changes in shape to conform to the shape of the path of travel of the carrier element as it moves along the track element, and having a plurality of members mounted thereon and disposed between the carrier element and the track element, said members being spaced along the carrier element and engaging said lower free edge of the track for supporting said carrier element therefrom at a plurality of spaced points, whereby individual members are inhibited against entering said notches and the carrier element and skirt are movable as a unit parallel to said track element.

5. For use with an article of furniture and a skirt therefor, structure for movably mounting said skirt with respect to said article, comprising: an elongated track element including a rear wall, top and bottom wall portions, and upper and lower front wall portions having upper and lower free edges respectively; said top and bottom wall portions, upper and lower front wall portions and free edges having a plurality of transverse notches spaced therealong, whereby

said track element may be bent to conform the same to the contour of said article, said notches changing in size to accommodate to the bending of said rear wall; a unitary carrier element; said carrier element being in the form of an elongated strip of bendable material which changes in form to conform to the shape of the path of travel of the carrier element as it moves along the track element, said carrier element having a plurality of members thereon and shiftably connecting the carrier element to the said free edges of the track, said members being spaced along the carrier element and supporting said carrier element at a plurality of spaced points, individual members being inhibited against entering said notches by the carrier element itself, whereby the carrier element and said skirt when attached thereto are movable as a unit longitudinally of and parallel to said track element.

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