March 11, 1952 F. L. MORRIS ET AL 2,588,557

RACK FOR HOLDING VENETIAN BLIND SLATS

Filed Jan. 16, 1950 2 SHEETS--SHEET 1

Fig. 1

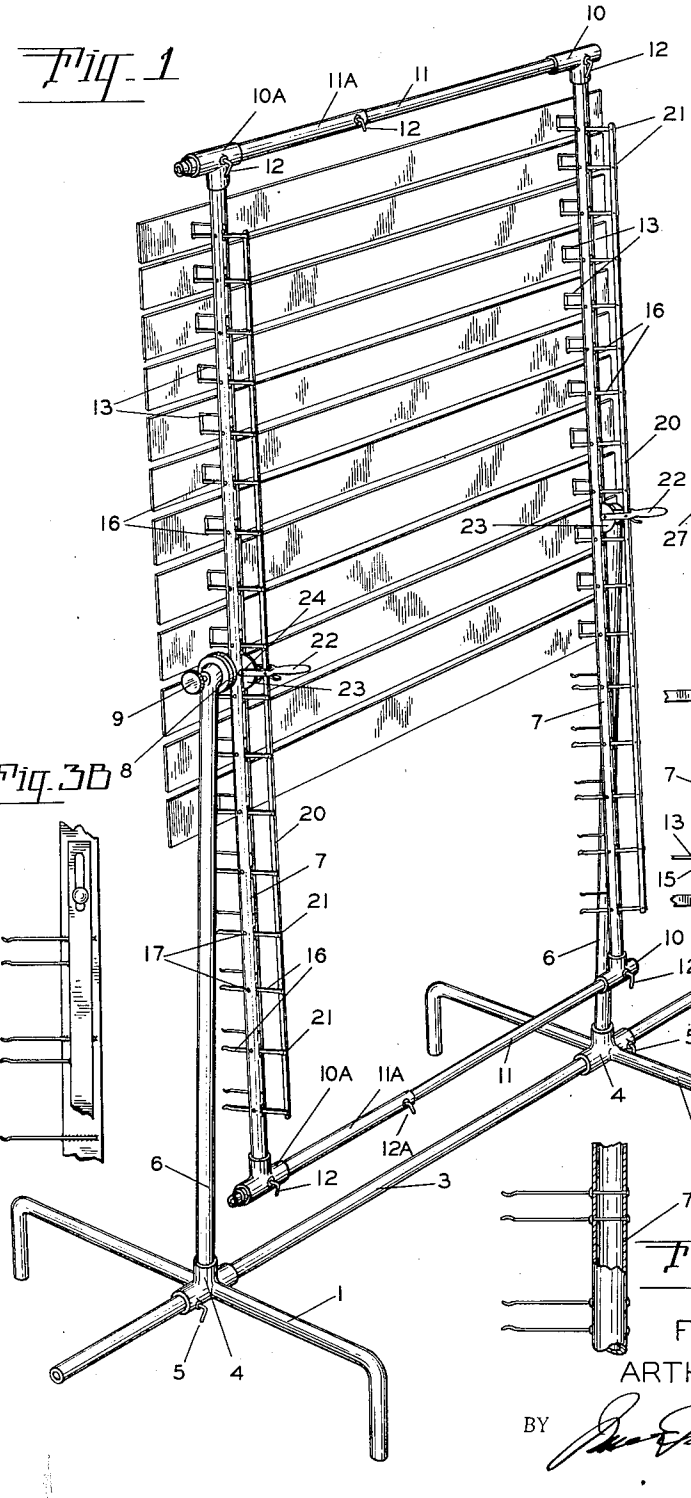


Fig. 2

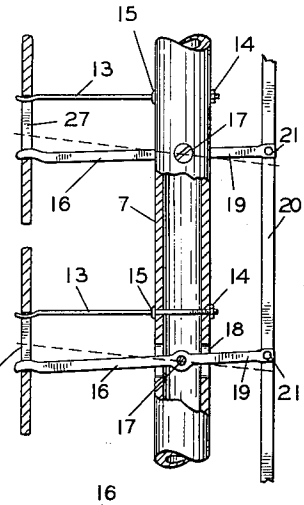


Fig. 3B

Fig. 3

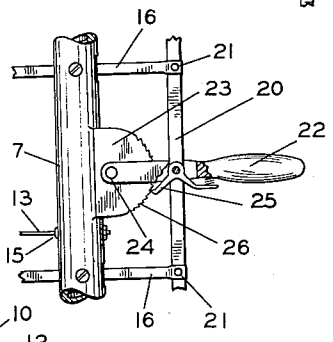


Fig. 3A

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2

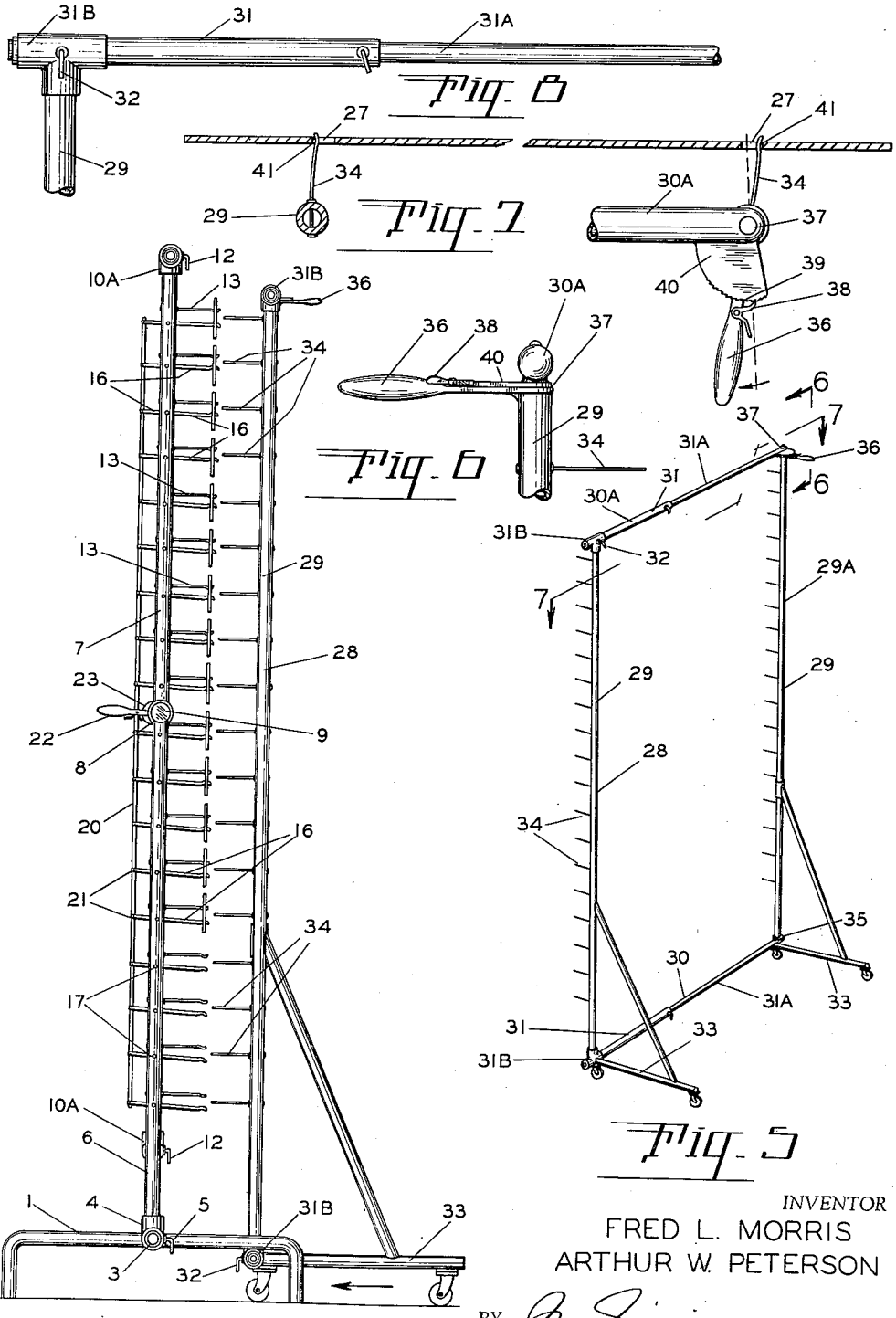


Fig. 4

Fig. 5

Fig. 6

Fig. 7

Fig. 8

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RACK FOR HOLDING VENETIAN BLIND SLATS

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2 Claims. (Cl. 118—503)

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Our invention relates to racks for holding Venetian blind slats and is particularly adapted for holding the slats while being painted and cleaned.

The primary object of our invention is the provision of a holding rack for supporting the slats of Venetian blinds while paint is being applied to all of their surfaces.

A further object of our invention is the provision of an auxiliary holding and drying rack for holding the slats of the Venetian blinds while they are drying after being painted.

A still further object of our invention is to provide a holding rack for the slats of Venetian blinds that can be adjusted to any size of slat.

And a still further object of our invention is to provide a rack or hanger for Venetian blind slats wherein the slats may be hung on to the hanger after which a mechanism is provided for solidly locking the slats thereto or releasing them, or either hanging the slats on the hanger or removing them.

These and other incidental objects will be apparent in the drawings, specification and claims.

Referring to the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of our new and improved Venetian blind slat holder, having a number of slats applied thereto to be painted.

Figure 2 is an enlarged fragmentary detail view of the slat holding units, the mechanism partially broken away for convenience of illustration, also the slats are shown in section.

Figure 3 is an enlarged fragmentary detail of the lever mechanism for tightening the holding brackets within the rope slots of the slats.

Figure 3A is another preferred form of slat holding bracket.

Figure 3B is another preferred form of slat holding bracket.

Figure 4 is an end view of our new and improved slat holding racks for holding the slats while painting the same, also the auxiliary holding and drying rack is shown being pushed into position for receiving the slats after they have been painted.

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the auxiliary rack for holding the slats while drying.

Figure 6 is a fragmentary detail view, taken on line 6—6 of Figure 5 of the holding mechanism for gripping the slats.

Figure 7 is a plan view, taken on line 7—7 of Figure 5, illustrating the mechanism for holding the slats.

Figure 8 is a fragmentary view of the frame of the auxiliary rack, partially broken away for convenience of illustration.

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Referring more specifically to the drawings:

Our new and improved rack for supporting slats of Venetian blinds consists of base members 1 and 2, having a transverse rod 3 passing through the special fittings 4. The supporting members 1 and 2 may be adjusted towards or away from one another on releasing the locking bolt 5. Extending upwardly from the fittings 4 are vertical supporting legs 6.

Tubular frame members 7 are pivotally connected to the legs 6 at 8 by frictional engagement. Adjusting screws 9 increase or decrease the tension of the friction plates permitting the frame to be pivoted thereabout to either a vertical, inclined or horizontal position. The ends of the frame 7 have a fitting 10 through which the bar 11 operates and is locked at the desired position by the locking screw 12. A tube 11A is slidably mounted within the fitting 10A and is adapted to receive the bar 11, which is locked in relation to the tube by the locking screw 12.

The frames 7 are preferably made from tubular material. Secured to the frames 7 are supporting brackets 13, preferably in the form of spring stock. These brackets pass through the walls of the frame 7 and threaded therein and locked thereto by the lock nuts 14. They also have a shoulder 15 which spaces them relative to the frame 7, although we do not wish to be limited to the exact mechanical structure of these brackets.

Arms 16 are also pivotally mounted within the frames 7 by the cross pins 17. These arms extend in line with the brackets 13 and at the same distance outwardly. They also extend through the slots 18 of the frame 7 beyond the frame as at 19 and are connected together by the connecting link 20 by pivot mountings 21. The connecting links 20 are operated by the levers 22, which are pivotally mounted to the quadrants 23 at 29 and have pawls 25 engaging the ratchets 26 of the quadrants. When the blind slats are placed on the rack the arms 16 are moved to the dotted position, referring to Figure 2. The slats are then hung onto the supporting brackets 13 by way of their rope slots 27.

After the slats are hung on the brackets 13, the lever 22 is raised pivoting the arms 16 to the full line position, springing the brackets 13 and placing a tension therein, thereby gripping the blind slat securely between the brackets 13 and the arms 16. The ratchet pawl engages the ratchet teeth 26 holding the lever and the connecting link 20 against the tension created within the brackets 13. The slats may then be painted from all sides, the frames 7 may be tilted about

their pivot points bringing the frame to any desired angle, or to a horizontal position.

When it comes time to remove the slats from the holding frame, the pawls **25** are released from the ratchet teeth **26**, permitting the lever to allow the link **20** to lower releasing the arms **16** from the ends of the slots **27** so that the slats may be removed from the brackets **13**.

Referring to Figures 4 and 5, we have illustrated a receiving rack to remove the slats from the holding rack above described. The receiving rack consists of a rectangular frame **28**, which consists of two side members **29** and cross members **30** and **30A**. The cross members consist of a tubular section **31** and bars **31A**. The cross members **30** and **30A** slide freely within the fittings **31B** and are locked to the desired position by the locking bolts **32**. This provides adjustment for the different lengths of Venetian blind slats.

The frame **28** is mounted on a wheeled base **33**, which may be wheeled up towards the primary slat holding rack above described, this is illustrated in Figure 4. Supporting brackets **34** are fixedly secured to the side frames **29** and **29A**. The side frame **29A** is rotatably mounted within the fitting **35** at its lower end and is controlled by the lever **36** at its upper end. The lever **36** is pivotally mounted to the cross frame **30A** at **37**. The position of the lever being determined by the pawl **38** engaging the ratchet **39** of the quadrant **40**, which is fixedly secured to the cross member **30A**.

When the brackets enter the slots **27** of the blind slats midway the length of the slot, the lever **36** is moved in the direction of the arrow, which causes the brackets **34** to bear against the sides **41** of the slots **27** gripping all of the slats with a tension created within the brackets **34** and the action of the lever **36** revolving the side frame **29** as indicated in Figure 7.

After the slats have been transferred onto the secondary frame **28**, the same is rolled away from the primary holding frame so that the other slats may be placed on the said primary frame and painted while the previous slats are dried on the frame **28**.

Although certain specific embodiments of the invention have been shown and described, it is obvious that many modifications thereof are possible. The invention, therefore, is not to be restricted except in so far as is necessitated by the prior art and by the spirit of the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. A rack for supporting Venetian blind slats, comprising a frame having parallel side bars, spaced apart substantially horizontal pairs of pins respectively extending from each of said side bars for insertion through the respective rope slots in the slats, one of each pair of pins being resilient and fixed to the bars to engage one edge of each of the slots, the other of each pair of pins being movably supported, and means connected to all of said movably supported pins for simultaneously adjusting said pins to releasably engage the opposite edge of each of the slots to hold the slats rigid.

2. A rack for supporting Venetian blind slats, comprising a frame having parallel side bars, spaced apart substantially horizontal pairs of pins respectively extending from each of said side bars for insertion through the respective rope slots in the slats, one of each pair of pins being resilient and fixed to the bars to engage one edge of each of the slots, the other of the pins of each pair being adjustably mounted to releasably engage the opposite edge of each of the slots to hold the slats rigid, a link pivotally connected to all of said adjustably mounted pins on each side bar, a lever pivoted to said frame and to said link, and means for releasably holding said lever in selected position and thereby hold said pins under tension against the opposite edges of the slots.

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