July 11, 1967 D. W. SMITH ETAL 3,329,992

DRAPERY TRAVERSE ROD

Filed Sept. 10, 1965

Fig. 1

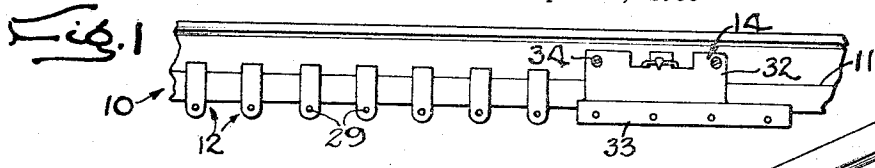


Fig. 2

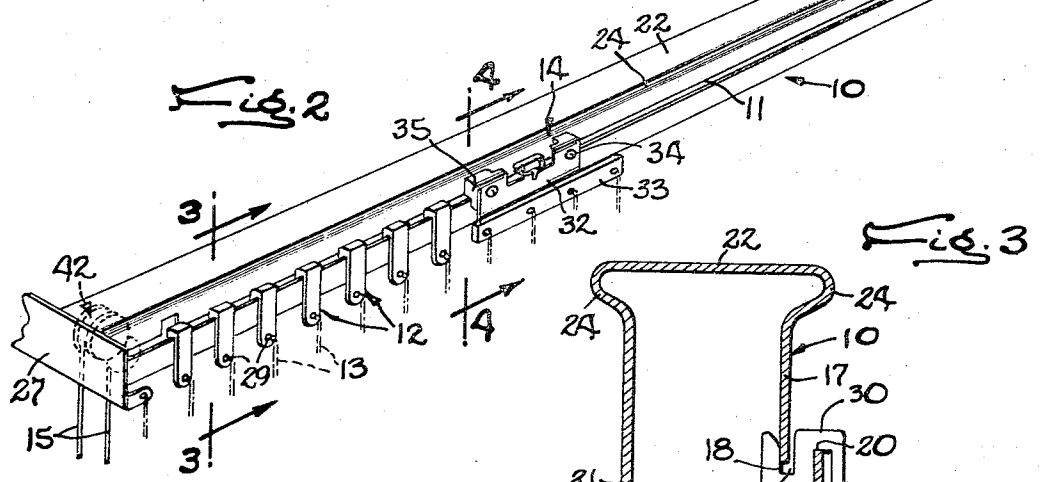


Fig. 3

Fig. 4

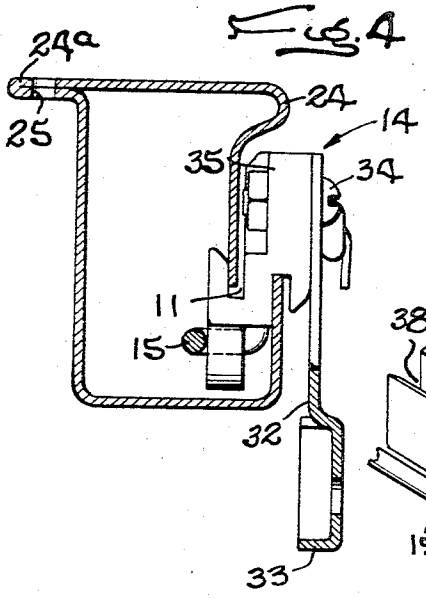
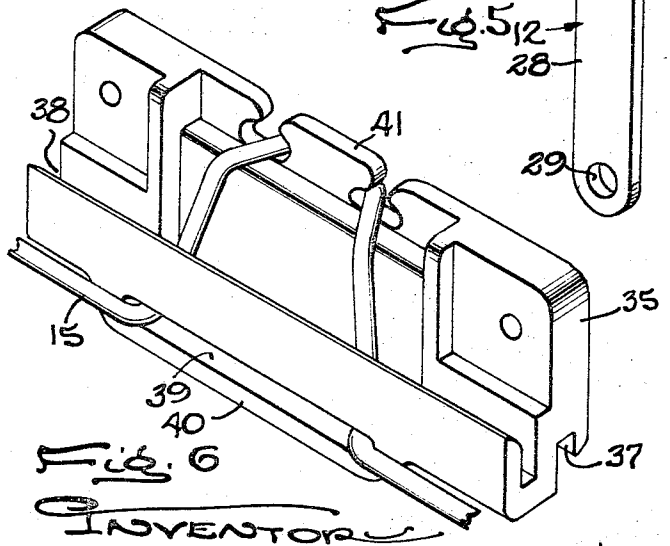


Fig. 5

Fig. 6



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DRAPERY TRAVERSE ROD

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This invention relates to a drapery traverse rod of the type comprising an elongated body adapted to be mounted in a generally horizontal position on a room wall and slidably supporting a plurality of drapery carriers for movement along a longitudinal slot in the rod to open and close a drapery panel supported by the rod.

The general object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved traverse rod of the foregoing character in which the carriers are supported on the front side of the rod, the side facing into the room, to avoid the disadvantages of prior rear and bottom opening traverse rods without the unattractive and objectionable appearance of prior front opening traverse rods.

A more detailed object is to form the carrier slot in the front wall of the traverse rod in a novel manner such that the slot is masked from the view of the occupants of the room and is virtually invisible when the drapery is open.

Another object is to utilize the masked carrier slot in a novel manner to improve the support for the carriers.

Still another object is to form the carriers in a novel manner for cooperation with the masked slot in supporting the drapery against tilting of the top of the drapery adjacent the rod.

A further object is to take advantage of the manner of formation and masking of the slot to increase the distance the drapery can be opened.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which

FIGURE 1 is a fragmentary front elevation of a drapery traverse rod embodying the novel features of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the traverse rod.

FIG. 3 is an enlarged cross-sectional view taken along the line 3—3 of FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is an enlarged cross-sectional view taken along the line 4—4 of FIG. 2 and showing a modification of the traverse rod body.

FIG. 5 is an enlarged perspective view of a carrier.

FIG. 6 is an enlarged perspective view of part of one of the master carriers.

As shown in the drawings for purposes of illustration, this invention is embodied in a drapery traverse rod **10** adapted to be mounted on a room wall (not shown) along the top of a window to support the drapery panel covering the window for movement between open and closed positions. Such traverse rods comprise elongated hollow bodies which extend across the top of the window and are formed with a longitudinal slot **11** slidably supporting a plurality of drapery carriers or hangers **12** which are connected to the drapery by hooks **13** (FIG. 2) inserted at laterally spaced points into the upper portion of the drapery panel to suspend the latter from the rod. A master slide **14** at one end of the group of hangers similarly supports the movable edge portion of the panel and is connected to a pull cord **15** for drawing the master slide back and forth in a well known manner.

In most prior traverse rods, the carrier slot **11** has been formed either in the rear wall of the rod to face toward the room wall or in the underside of the rod so as to be inconspicuous when the drapery is open. When the slot is formed in the rear wall with the top of the drapery projecting upwardly past the front of the rod, it has been

necessary to offset the lower portions of the hangers **12** forwardly beneath the rod to minimize the objectionable outward tilting of the upper edge portion of the drapery from the point of support. With such hangers, however, it has been very difficult to completely eliminate the tilting and there is a tendency of the hangers to twist and bind in the slot. Other problems exist with downwardly opening rods, including limitations resulting from complex construction and the manner of mounting of such rods, the need for a forward offset of the hangers to reduce or eliminate tilting, and the possibility of fouling of the draw cords that extend through the rods above the hangers and the master carrier.

The present invention contemplates a traverse rod **10** of simple construction that completely eliminates the disadvantages of such prior traverse rods by forming the slot **11** in the front wall of the rod in a novel manner such that the slot is masked and virtually invisible as viewed by the occupants of the room. Thus, the improved rod permits the placement of the hangers **12** and the master carriers **14** in the logical position on the front wall of the rod while voiding an unattractive appearance of the rod when the drapery thereon is open.

To these ends, the generally vertical front wall of the traverse rod body is formed by an upper section **17** terminating in a free lower edge **18**, and a lower section **19** offset forwardly from the plane of the upper section and projecting upwardly far enough to mask the lower edge **18** from view from the room. Preferably, the free upper edge **20** of the lower section is level with or slightly above the lower edge **18**. With this arrangement, the slot **11** actually opens upwardly along the front wall and all that is visible from the room is a relatively inconspicuous line defined by the free upper edge **20**.

While the cross-sectional shape of the tubular body may take various forms, herein it is generally rectangular as defined by a vertical rear wall **21**, horizontal top and bottom walls **22** and **23** and the horizontally offset vertical sections **17** and **19** forming the front wall of the rod. In FIGS. 2 and 3, the top wall is joined to the front and rear walls by curved bends **24**. In the modification shown in FIG. 4, the rear bend **24a** is flattened to form a rearwardly extending mounting flange with longitudinally spaced apertures **25** through which fasteners can be inserted to attach the rod to a ceiling wall. The form shown in FIGS. 2 and 3 is supported on end brackets **27** of any desired form.

The hangers **12** are molded in one piece of suitable material such as plastic with lower end portions **28** (FIGS. 3 and 5) in the form of elongated fingers hanging downwardly along the lower section **19** and extending below the latter, the fingers being apertured at **29** adjacent their lower ends to receive the drapery hooks **13**. The upper or bearing portions **30** of the hangers are shaped to form two oppositely opening channels **31** that receive the edges **18** and **20** snugly but slidably to hold the hangers firmly in place in the slot **11**. For this purpose, the upper end portions are S-shaped bends hooking over the edge **20** into the slot and then under the edge **18** and upwardly behind the upper section **17**.

When the rod **10** is used to support two drapery panels, two master slides **14** are mounted in the slot **11** between two groups of hangers **12**. Of course, the rod may be made adjustable in length by telescoping two similarly shaped bodies together. In this instance, each master slide comprises a vertical plate **32** (FIGS. 2 and 4) having an apertured lower portion **33** for attachment to the drapery with hooks **13**, the upper edge portion of the plate being fastened by means of screws **34** to a plastic body **35** having an integral S-shaped portion along its lower edge defining a downwardly opening longitudinal groove **37** (FIG. 6) in the underside of the carrier and an upwardly

opening groove **38** along the lower edge of its rear side. These grooves also receive the edges **20** and **18** as shown in FIG. 4. A loop in the cord **15** for moving the master slides along the rod is inserted through a slot **39** in a flange **40** extending downwardly from the carrier body **35** within the rod body and is looped around a cleat **41** on the top of the body **35** as shown in FIG. 6. With this arrangement, the pulleys **42** (FIG. 2) for the pull cord may be offset rearwardly from the slot **11** to permit the hangers **12** to pass the pulleys and stack up at the ends of the rod.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that the disadvantages of rear or bottom opening traverse rods have been eliminated in a traverse rod **10** of relatively simple and inexpensive construction and, at the same time, the objectionable appearance of prior front opening traverse rods has been avoided in an extremely simple and effective manner. Moreover, the masked slot **11** is used to advantage in combination with the S-shaped portions **30** of the hangers **12** and the master slides **14** to provide secure and free sliding support for the drapery panels.

We claim as our invention:

1. A drapery traverse rod adapted to be mounted in a generally horizontal position along a room wall and having, in combination, a hollow tubular body with a front wall for facing into the room, said front wall comprising vertical upper section terminating in a free and generally horizontal lower edge extending longitudinally of said body and a lower section disposed in a generally vertical plane offset forwardly from said upper section and terminating in a free upper edge parallel to and spaced forwardly from said lower edge, said wall sections cooperating to define between them an upwardly opening slot extending longitudinally of said body, and a plurality of hangers each comprising a finger disposed in a vertical position along the front of said lower wall section and a bearing portion of S-shaped cross-section extending into said body through said slot, each bearing portion forming two offset and oppositely opening channels extending longitudinally of said body and slidably receiving said edges to hold the hanger in said slot.

2. A drapery traverse rod adapted to be mounted in a generally horizontal position along a room wall and having, in combination, a hollow tubular body with a front wall for facing into the room, said front wall comprising vertical upper section terminating in a free and generally horizontal lower edge extending longitudinally of said body and a lower section disposed in a generally vertical plane offset forwardly from said upper section and terminating in a free upper edge parallel to and spaced forwardly from said lower edge, said wall sections cooperating to define between them an upwardly opening slot extending longitudinally of said body, and a plurality of hangers each having a finger disposed in a vertical position along the front of said lower wall section and a bearing portion formed with offset and oppositely opening grooves slidably receiving said edges to hold the hanger in said slot.

3. A drapery traverse rod adapted to be mounted in a generally horizontal position along a room wall and having a hollow tubular body with a front wall facing into the room, said front wall comprising an upper section terminating in a lower edge extending longitudinally of said body and a lower section having a free upper edge extending longitudinally of said body and paralleling said lower edge, said upper edge being offset forwardly from said lower edge and positioned to cooperate with the latter in defining an upwardly opening slot extending longitudinally along said front wall and masked from view from said room, and a plurality of hangers spaced along said slot, each of said hangers having a first portion extending downwardly from said upper edge along said lower section for connection to a drapery panel and a second portion extending through said slot and defining two offset and oppositely opening channels slidably receiving the edges of said sections to hold the hanger on said rod.

4. The combination defined in claim **3** in which said second portions are of S-shaped cross-section and hook over said upper edge into said slot and then under said lower edge and upwardly along the inside of said upper section.

5. The combination as defined in claim **3** further including a master slide disposed adjacent said lower section and comprising an outer portion disposed in front of said front wall and extending downwardly below said upper edge, and a body portion fastened to said outer portion and formed with offset grooves extending longitudinally of said rod and slidably receiving said edges to support said slide on said rod.

6. A drapery traverse rod adapted to be mounted in a generally horizontal position along a room wall and having a hollow tubular body with a front wall facing into the room, said front wall comprising a vertical upper section terminating in a lower edge extending longitudinally of said body and a vertical lower section having a free upper edge extending longitudinally of said body and paralleling said lower edge, said upper edge being offset forwardly from said lower edge and positioned above the latter to cooperate therewith in defining an upwardly opening slot extending longitudinally along said front wall and masked from view from said room.

7. A drapery traverse rod adapted to be mounted in a generally horizontal position along a room wall and having a hollow tubular body with a front wall facing into the room, said front wall comprising a generally vertical upper section terminating in a lower edge extending longitudinally of said body and a generally vertical lower section having a free upper edge extending longitudinally of said body and paralleling said lower edge, said lower section being offset forwardly from said lower edge and extending upwardly at least to the level of said lower edge to cooperate with the latter in defining an upwardly opening slot extending longitudinally along said front wall and masked from view from said room.

8. A drapery traverse rod adapted to be mounted in a generally horizontal position along a room wall and having a hollow tubular body with a front wall facing into the room, said front wall comprising an upper section terminating in a lower edge extending longitudinally of said body and a lower section having a free upper edge extending longitudinally of said body and paralleling said lower edge, said upper edge being offset forwardly from said lower edge and positioned to cooperate with the latter in defining an upwardly opening slot extending longitudinally along said front wall and masked from view from said room.

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