Aug. 18, 1970 R. V. YAZEJIAN 3,524,289

AWNING CONSTRUCTION

Filed July 25, 1968 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

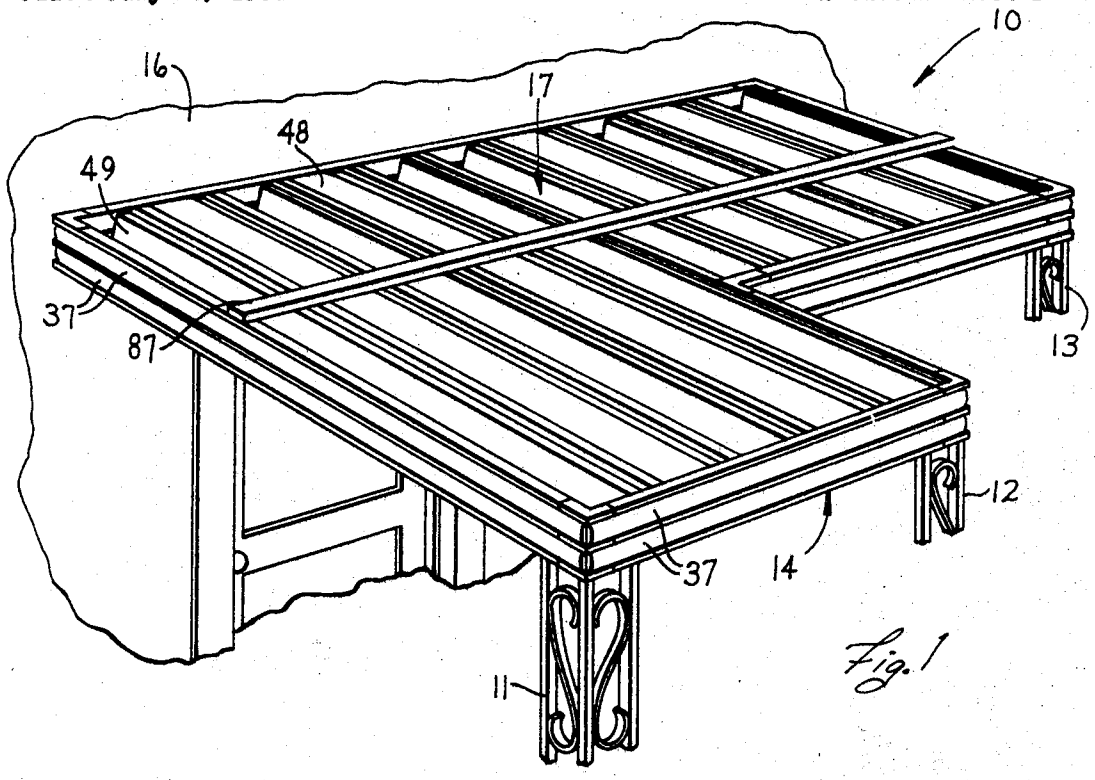


Fig. 1

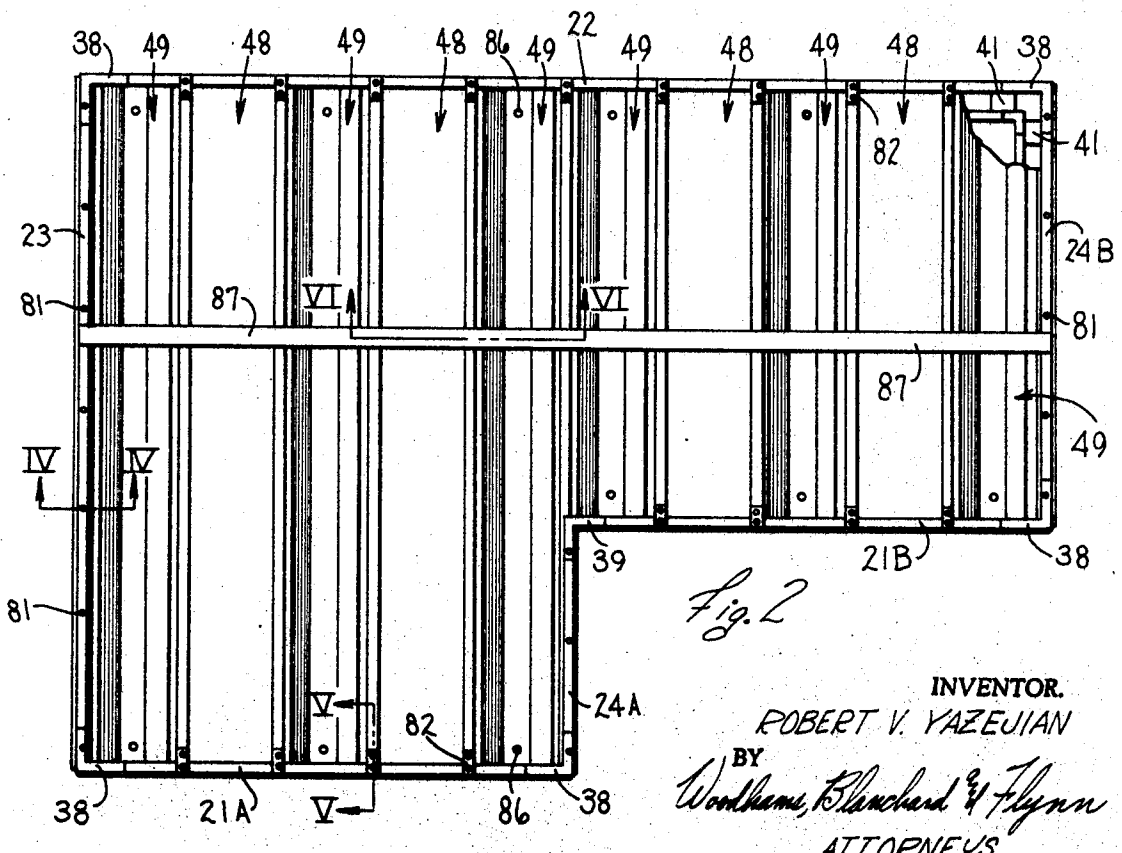


Fig. 2

INVENTOR.
ROBERT V. YAZEJIAN
BY
Wareham, Blanchard & Flynn
ATTORNEYS

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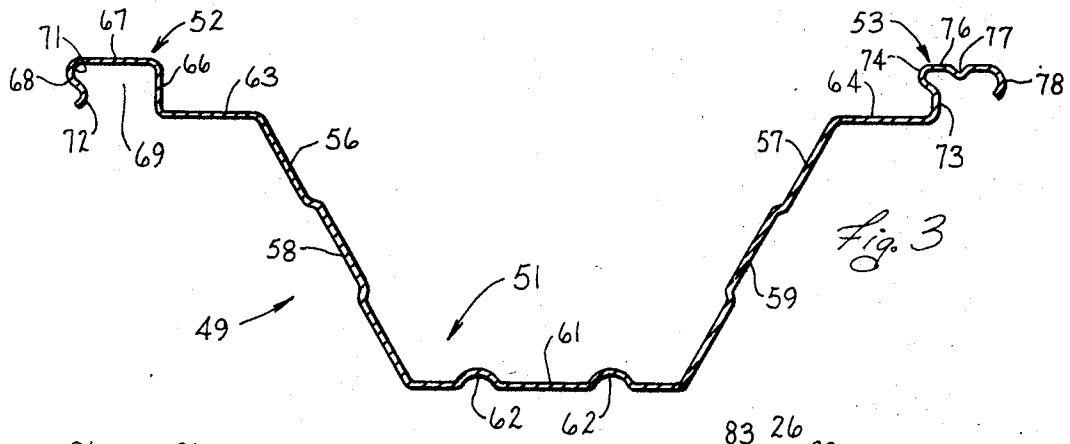


Fig. 3

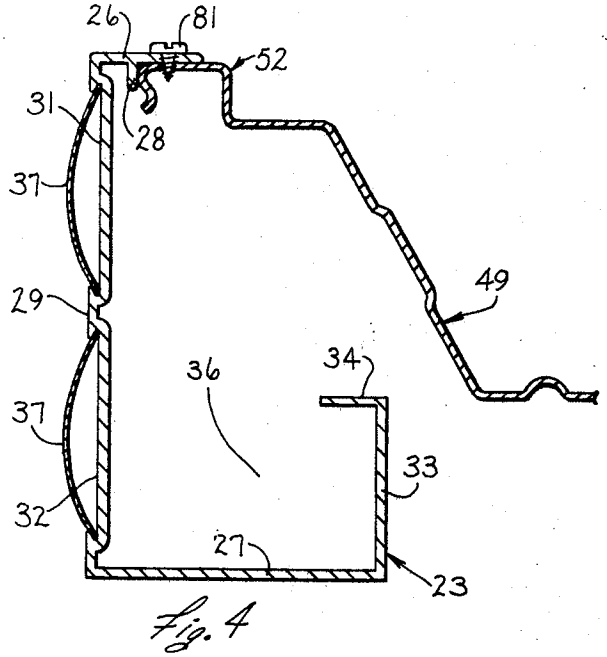


Fig. 4

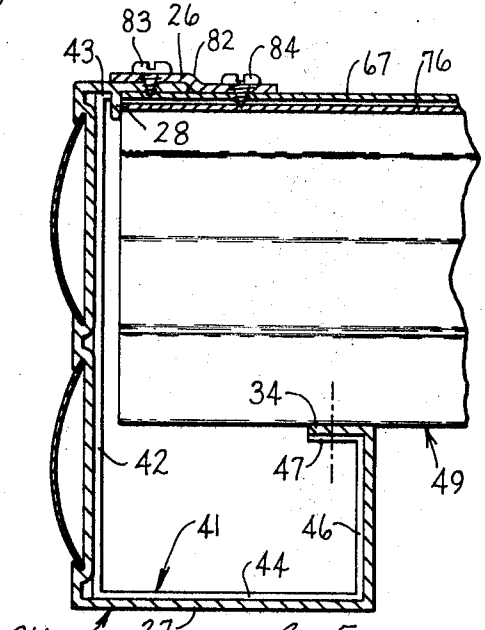


Fig. 5

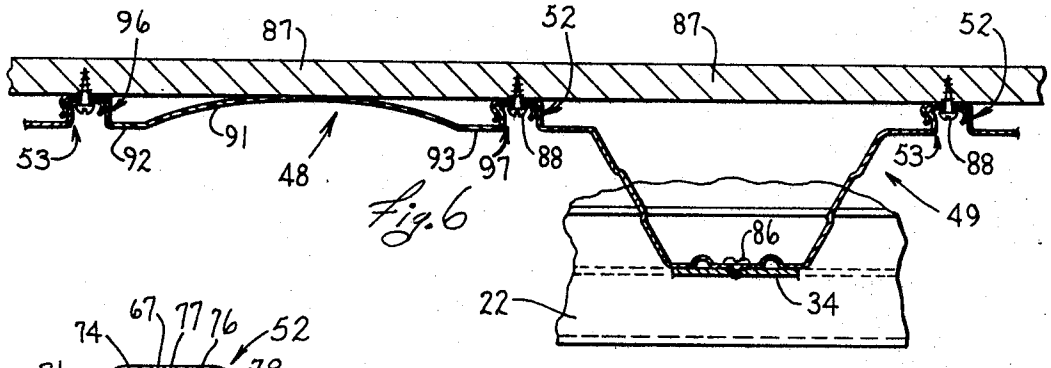


Fig. 6

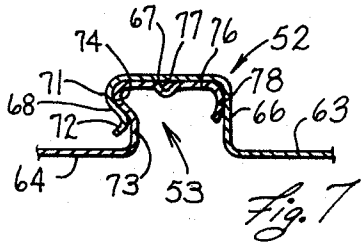


Fig. 7

INVENTOR.
ROBERT V. YAZEJIAN
BY
Woodhams, Blanchard & Flynn
ATTORNEYS

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AWNING CONSTRUCTION

Robert V. Yazejian, Birmingham, Mich., assignor to Kaufmann Window and Door Corporation, Detroit, Mich., a corporation of Michigan

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Int. Cl. E04d *13/00;* E04b *1/34;* E04c *1/30*
U.S. Cl. 52—95 8 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An awning construction comprising a plurality of elongated panels having hook-like edge portions for permitting adjacent panels to be interlocked in side-by-side relation. The hook-like edge portions have flat upper surfaces for permitting a traverse crossbeam to be positioned above, and fixedly secured to, the panels. The hooked edge portion of one panel is resiliently snapped within the hooked edge portion of an adjacent panel, which hooked edge portions are provided with compatible arcuate portions for preventing flow of water between the edges. The panels contact and are supported by elongated frame members adjacent the ends thereof.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to an improved awning construction and, more particularly, relates to an improved awning panel structure.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

It is common practice to cover porches, patios and similar places with various types of awning constructions. One popular form of awning structure comprises a plurality of upstanding supports upon which frame members are mounted. Awning panels or sheets formed of a suitable material, such as aluminum, are then mounted upon the frame members to form a continuous cover.

One common and well-known awning construction utilizes a plurality of awning panels of substantially channel-shaped configuration with the panels being positioned in side-by-side relation. These known awning panels generally have hook-like edge portions which are adapted to interfit and interlock with adjacent panels so as to form a continuous awning cover. The hook-like edges formed on the known awning panels have, to the best of my knowledge, generally been formed as downwardly opening channels having an arcuate or similar curve cross section. During assembly, the arcuate hook-like edge of one panel is positioned within the arcuate hook-like edge formed on an adjacent panel. While panels constructed in this manner have been used for a substantial period of time, it has been discovered that these panels possess structural features which make their use undesirable and results in an undesirable appearance in the completed awning construction.

In particular, most awning panels are constructed of a relatively thin sheet metal and accordingly require a crossbeam extending transversely with respect to the panels between the opposite side frame members. Such a cross beam is used for reinforcing and supporting the panels so as to prevent undesirable buckling or deflection thereof. In the prior known awning constructions utilizing panels having arcuate hook-like edges, it was necessary to position the crossbeam underneath the panels whereupon the beam could be fixedly secured to the substantially flat bottom wall formed on the panel since the arcuate hook-shaped edges did not provide any flat surfaces upon which the crossbeam could bear and be securely attached. While positioning the crossbeam underneath the panels

provides the necessary support for the awning construction, such a construction is undesirable since the crossbeam is thus visible to persons under or near the awning construction and thus makes the overall awning construction aesthetically undesirable.

Positioning the crossbeam underneath the awning panel has the additional disadvantage that animals, in particular birds, tend to build nests in the openings between the crossbeams and the panels, thereby disrupting or hindering the free usage of the space underneath the awning construction.

Further, it has been discovered that awning constructions of the above-described type often leak, particularly during rainstorms accompanied by substantial winds, whereby the wind tends to drive the rain into the small space between the interlocked hook portions formed on adjacent panels. Due to the capillary effect caused by the smallness of the space between the interengaging hook portions, and further due to the smooth arcuate configuration of the hook portions, the rain water tends to travel up and around the smooth arcuate configuration of the hook portions whereupon the water passes between the interlocked hook portions of adjacent panels and drips down into the area underneath the awning construction. This thus makes the area underneath the awning unuseable during rainstroms. Further, such leakage greatly hinders the useability of the area underneath the awning since goods which are damaged by water cannot be stored underneath the awning during a rainstorm.

Accordingly, the objects of the invention include:

(1) To provide an awning construction using a plurality of interlocked panels having hooks along the opposite longitudinal edges thereof, which hooks result in an awning having a more aesthetic appearance and more desirable operational characteristics.

(2) To provide an awning construction, as aforesaid, wherein the hooks are provided with laterally extending arcuate offsets for effectively preventing flow of water through the interlocked hooked edges of adjacent panels.

(3) To provide an awning construction, as aforesaid, wherein the hooks are provided with substantially flat upper surfaces thereon with one of said upper surfaces having a longitudinal groove therein for preventing flow of water between interengaging hooks.

(4) To provide an awning construction, as aforesaid, wherein the flat upper surface formed on the hooks permits the use of a transverse crossbeam positioned adjacent the upper side of the awning construction.

(5) To provide an awning construction, as foresaid, wherein the interengaging hooks become tighter upon the application of increased vertical loads.

(6) To provide an awning construction, as aforesaid, wherein the shape of the hooks permits the adjacent panels to be easily assembled by being snapped together while at the same time resulting in an awning construction having a desirable appearance.

(7) To provide an awning construction, as aforesaid, wherein the elongated panels cooperate with rigid frame members having channels formed therein whereupon water is conveyed from the panels into the frame members, which frame member function in the manner of gutters.

(8) To provide an awning construction, as aforesaid, wherein the frame members surrounding the awning construction are of identical configuration and are easily interconnected by adapted fittings positioned adjacent opposite ends thereof.

(9) To provide an awning construction, as aforesaid, which is inexpensive to manufacture, simple to assemble and pleasing to the eye.

Other objects and purposes of the invention will be ap-

parent to persons acquainted with apparatus of this general type upon reading the following disclosure and inspecting the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an awning construction according to the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a top plan view of the awning construction illustrated in FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is an enlarged cross-sectional view of a single awning panel.

FIG. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary cross-sectional view taken along the line IV—IV of FIG. 2.

FIG. 5 is an enlarged fragmentary cross-sectional view taken along the line V—V of FIG. 2.

FIG. 6 is an enlarged fragmentary cross-sectional view taken along the line VI—VI of FIG. 2.

FIG. 7 is a fragmentary cross-sectional view illustrating the interlocking of the edge portions of adjacent panels.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The objects and purposes of the present invention are met by providing an awning panel having inner and outer channel-shaped hooks formed on the opposite longitudinal edges thereof with the inner hook of one panel being snapped and positioned within the outer hook of an adjacent panel. Both the inner and outer hooks on the panel are formed with arcuate offset portions thereon extending laterally in a direction toward the free edge of the outer hook for preventing flow of water between the interlocked hooks when the awning panels are assembled. Further, the outer hook is preferably provided with a substantially flat upper surface thereon for permitting same to be positioned in abutting contact with a transverse crossbeam positioned thereabove. The inner hook is also provided with a longitudinal groove extending along the upper surface thereof for collecting any water which gains access between the interengaging hooks of adjacent panels. The opposite longitudinal ends of the panel members are supported on channel-shaped frame elements which extend around and support the awning construction. The channel-shaped frame members have a flow channel formed therein whereupon water deposited upon the panel members flows into the channels formed in the frame members, which water is then conveyed to a suitable discharge means, such as a downspout.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Referring to FIG. 1, there is shown an awning construction according to the present invention. The awning construction **10** is supported upon a plurality of support posts **11**, **12** and **13** and includes a support frame **14** interconnected to and between the support posts. The support frame **14** is also connected to a suitable support surface, such as the wall **16** of a building. A cover **17**, comprised of a plurality of individual panels or sheets, is positioned within the support frame **14** for completing the awning construction.

As illustrated in FIG. 2, the support frame **14** includes a front frame member comprised by substantially parallel offset portions **21A** and **21B** and a rear frame member **22** interconnected to the front frame member by means of side frame members **23** and **24**, side frame member **24** being comprised of a pair of substantially parallel offset portions **24A** and **24B**. While the awning construction **10** illustrated in FIG. 2 is of a substantially L-shaped configuration, same has been illustrated merely for purposes of convenience since the awning construction of the present invention could be of any desired configuration, such as U-shaped or rectangular.

To simplify the manufacture and assembly of the present awning construction, all of the frame elements **21–24** are preferably of identical cross-sectional configuration, which cross-sectional configuration is illustrated in detail in FIG. 4. As there illustrated, the side frame member **23** has substantially parallel top and bottom walls **26** and **27**, respectively, the top wall further having a downwardly extending tab or rib **28** formed thereon. The front and bottom walls **26** and **27** are interconnected adjacent one edge thereof by means of a front sidewall **29** which has a pair of offset portions **31** and **32** formed therein. A rear sidewall **33** extends upwardly from the other longitudinal edge of the bottom sidewall **27** as illustrated in FIG. 4, the rear sidewall **33** being substantially parallel to the front sidewall **29**. The rear sidewall **33** extends only a portion of the distance toward the top wall **26** and has a tab **34** formed on the free edge thereof, which tab is substantially parallel to the bottom wall **27**. The sidewalls **29** and **33** and the bottom wall **27** thus form a channel **36** for purposes to be explained hereinafter. The frame elements **21**, **22** and **24** preferably all have an identical cross-sectional configuration.

Use of a configuration similar to that illustrated in FIG. 4 for the frame member **23** permits same to be easily and inexpensively manufactured, such as by permitting the use of a light and thin wall construction while permitting same to be easily extruded, such as from aluminum. At the same time, the recesses **31** and **32** provide for additional stiffening an strengthening of the frame member. Further, the recesses **31** and **32** can, if desired, have decorator strips or slats **37** positioned therein as illustrated in FIG. 4, which decorator strips can be constructed of plastic and have different colors thereon so as to permit the frame **14** to be decorated as desired.

The elongated frame members **21–24** are connected by means of corner members **38**, **39** in the manner as illustrated in FIG. 2. The corner members are constructed as right angle corners and have a cross-sectional configuration substantially identical to the cross-sectional configuration of the frame member **23** illustrated in FIG. 4. The corner members include both an outside corner member **38**, such as used to connect the frame members **21A** and **24A**, or an inside corner member **39**, such as used to connect the frame members **21B** and **24A**. The corner members **38** and **39** are positioned so as to be in abutting contact with the ends of the adjacent frame members, being fixedly connected thereto by means of short, L-shaped connecting members **41** which are positioned within and extend between the corner member and the adjacent frame member in the manner as illustrated in FIG. 2.

The cross-sectional configuration of the connecting member **41** is shown in FIG. 5 wherein there is illustrated the frame member **21A**, which frame member abuts against the corner member **38** as illustrated in FIG. 2. The abutting ends of the frame member **21A** and the corner member **38** are overlapped by means of the connecting member **41** which is slideably positioned inside of the frame member and the corner member as shown in FIG. 5. Specifically, the connecting member **41** comprises a substantially straight sidewall **42** having a transverse tab **43** formed adjacent the upper end thereof, which tab is received adjacent the downwardly extending rib **28**. The bottom edge of the sidewall **42** is secured to a transverse bottom wall **44** which is slideably received on the bottom wall **27** of the frame member **21A**. A further sidewall **46** having a transverse tab **47** formed on the free end thereof is secured to the other edge of the bottom wall **44**. The connecting member **41** is thus snugly but slideably received within the channel formed within the frame members and extends between the adjacent ends of a frame member and a corner member so as to form a continuous frame **14**.

Considering now the cover **17**, same includes a plurality of elongated, interlocked panels **48** and **49** arranged in side-by-side relation. The cross-sectional configuration of the panel **49** is illustrated in detail in FIG. 3 and comprises a channel-shaped center portion **51** having outer and inner hook portions **52** and **53**, respectively, formed along the opposite longitudinal edges thereof. The center portion **51** includes a pair of sidewalls **56** and **57** which

diverge in an upward direction, the sidewalls having stiffening recesses **58** and **59**, respectively, formed therein. The sidewalls **56** and **57** are interconnected adjacent their lower ends by a bottom wall **61** which preferably has a pair of stiffening grooves **62** extending longitudinally thereof. The upper ends of the sidewalls **56** and **57** are provided with extensions **63** and **64**, respectively, thereon which extend outwardly in opposite directions, the extensions **63** and **64** being substantially parallel to the bottom wall **61** and having the hook portions **52** and **53** fixedly connected to the free ends thereof.

The hook portions **52** and **53** are substantially channel-shaped and extend laterally outwardly in substantially opposite directions from the sidewalls **56** and **57**. Further, the hook portions **52** and **53** each open in a substantially downwardly facing direction as illustrated in FIG. 3.

The outer hook portion **52** specifically includes a straight sidewall portion **66** which extends transversely upwardly from the extension **63** and has a substantially flat top wall or bridge portion **67** fixedly secured to and extending laterally therefrom, the top wall portion **67** being substantially parallel to the extension **63**. A substantially S-shaped sidewall portion **68** is secured to the edge of the top wall portion **67** whereby the sidewall portions **66** and **68** in cooperation with the bridge portion **67** define a substantially downwardly opening channel **69** therebetween. The S-shaped sidewall portion **68** is formed with an arcuate portion **71** therein which extends outwardly in a lateral direction toward the free edge of the hook portion **52**. Similarly, the free edge **72** of the sidewall portion **68** is arcuately curved outwardly for assisting in assembling the awning panels as explained hereinafter.

Considering now the inner hook portion **53**, same includes a substantially straight sidewall portion **73** extending transversely upwardly from the edge of the extension **64** and having an arcuate offset portion **74** formed thereon and interconnecting the sidewall portion **73** with a substantially flat top wall or bridge portion **76**. The arcuate offset portion **74** extends laterally in the same direction as the arcuate offset portion **71** formed on the hook portion **52**. The flat top wall portion **76** has a shallow groove or recess **77** substantially centrally positioned thereon and extending longitudinally of the panel. Further, an arcuate sidewall portion **78** is fixedly connected to the top wall portion **76** and defines the free edge of the hook portion **53**.

While FIG. 3 discloses the panel **49** as preferably being constructed from a single integral sheet of material whereby the center portion **51** and the hook portion **52** and **53** are all integrally connected, it will of course be apparent that the panel **49** could be formed of a welded construction if desired. However, forming the panel from a single sheet of thin material, such as aluminum or steel, is preferred.

While the cover **17** illustrated in FIG. 1 could be formed by using a plurality of identical panels **49** positioned in side-by-side relation, it is possible to form the cover **17** from panels having a different configuration, such as the panels **48** as illustrated in FIG. 6. Alternatively, the panels **48** can be used in conjunction with the panels **49** to produce the covering **17**. The panel **49** comprises an upwardly bowed arcuate center portion **91** having extensions **92** and **93** on opposite sides thereof, which extensions are substantially similar and correspond to the extensions **63** and **64** of the panel **49** as illustrated in FIG. 3. Further, the panel **48** has outer and inner hook portions **96** and **97**, respectively, positioned adjacent the opposite longitudinal edges thereof, which hook portions **96** and **97** are identical to the hook portion **52** and **53**, respectively. The panels **48** are preferably constructed of a transparent or translucent material, such as plastic, and are positioned between the panels **49** in any desired relationship so as to form a cover **17** which permits a substantial amount of light to pass therethrough to the area underneath the cover.

As illustrated in FIG. 6, when the cover **17** is assembled, same is comprised of a plurality of panels **48** and/or **49** positioned in side-by-side relation and held interlocked together by means of the inner hook portion **53** or **97** of one panel being inserted into the outer hook portion **52** or **96** of an adjacent panel. The assembled cover **17** is positioned within the frame **14** and is secured thereto in any suitable manner. For example, the opposite longitudinal ends of the interlocked hook portions formed on the panels are preferably connected to the top wall **26** of the front and rear frame members **21** and **22** by means of a Z-shaped mounting plate **82** (FIG. 5) with screws **83** and **84** being used to connect the panels to the frame.

Further, as also illustrated in FIG. 5, the transverse distance on the frame members between the top wall **26** and the tab **34** is substantially equal to or slightly greater than the depth of the panel members **49** so as to permit the panel members to slide under the top wall **26** while the bottom wall **61** of the panels **49** substantially rests on or contacts the tab **34**. A screw **86** (FIG. 6) is preferably used to interconnect the opposite longitudinal ends of the panels **49** to the flange **34** formed on the front and rear frame members. Additional screws **81** (FIGS. 2 and 4) are used to connect the longitudinally extending hook portions of the opposite edge panels to the longitudinally extending side frame members **23** and **24**.

The awning construction **10** is further preferably provided with a crossbeam **87** interconnected between the side frame members **23** and **24** with the crossbeam extending substantially transversely to the longitudinal length of the individual panels **48** and **49** as illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2. The crossbeam **87** is positioned above the panels (FIG. 6) and is adapted to abuttingly contact the flat top wall portions **67** formed on the outer hook portions **52** or **96**. The panels are connected and suported from the crossbeam **87** by the use of any suitable fastening means for connecting the interlocked hook portions to the crossbeam, such as by the screws **88** illustrated in FIG. 6.

ASSEMBLY AND OPERATION

While the assembly the awning construction has been partially described above, same will be described in detail for a more complete understanding of the invention.

In particular, the panels are assembled and interconnected by means of the adjacent inner and outer hook portions of adjacent panels being interengaged in the manner illustrated in FIG. 7. Specifically, the inner hook portion **53** is preferably positioned within the outer hook portion **52** of an adjacent panel by positioning the adjacent panels at a slight angle with respect to one another whereupon the offset arcuate portion **74** of the inner hook portion **53** can be moved up into engagement within the arcuate offset portion **72** formed on the outer hook portion **52**. The two panels are then angularly moved into a substantially planar position whereupon the arcuate portion **78** of the inner hook portion **53** resiliently deflects so as to permit the inner hook portion to move upwardly into snug engagement with the outer hook portion into the position illustrated in FIG. 7. This assembly of the hook portions is further assisted by the curved leading edge **72** formed on the outer hook portion **52**, which leading edge is substantially flexible and consequently will deflect as the hook portions are assembled and interlocked.

After the adjacent panels have been interconnected in the manner described above, the panels are then positioned in a longitudinally extending relationship between the front and rear frame members **21** and **22** and are secured thereto by means of screws **83**, **84** and **86**. Further, the outermost edge panels are positioned in abutting relationship with the downwardly extending tabs **28** formed on the side frame members **23** and **24** (as illustrated in FIG. 4) and are then interconnected to the side frame members by means of a plurality of screws **81**. Crossbeam **87** is then positioned between the side frame

members 23 and 24 and is interconnected to the plurality of panels by means of screws 88, thereby completing the awning construction assembly.

The awning construction described above possesses great strength and durability since positioning the crossbeam 87 across the top of the panels causes same to cooperate with the panels 48 and 49 so as to form a truss structure of substantial strength, thereby permitting the panels 48 and 49 to be of a relatively lightweight construction while at the same time possessing substantial strength and durability. Further, it has been discovered that positioning the crossbeam on the top of the panels causes the interlocked hook portions 52 and 53 to become tighter as the downward load imposed on the crossbeam and on the awning cover is increased, thereby improving the seal created by the hooked joints.

Considering now the manner in which the hooked connection between adjacent panels is effective in preventing the passage of water therebetween, as shown in FIG. 7, water can gain access between the hooked portions 52 and 53 only by being forced between the free edge 72 of the outer hook portion and the transverse sidewall 73 of the inner portion, such as by a strong wind forcing water rightwardly in FIG. 7. The water forced by the wind and assisted by capillary action then moves upwardly between the S-shaped sidewall portion 68 and the sidewall portion 73. However, upon reaching the laterally offset arcuate portions 71 and 74 formed on the outer and inner hook portions, respectively, the water is deflected through a large angle whereupon same has to move in a direction substantially opposite the direction of water flowing between the joint, that is, the water in moving past the arcuate portion 74 has to move substantially leftwardly in FIG. 7. This reverse bend created by the angular portion 74 thus makes it extremely difficult for any water to flow therepast and accordingly effectively prevents the passage of substantially all water beyond this point.

However, since it is possible that small amounts of water may flow around the arcuate portion 74 so as to gain access into the space between the flat top portions 67 and 76, the flat top portion 76 of the inner hook portion is formed with a groove 77 thereon whereupon any water which reaches this area becomes entrapped within the groove 77 and is conveyed longitudinally along the groove due to the slight angular inclination of the panels and is deposited into the channel 36 formed in the surrounding frame members. Thus, the reverse offset 74 in cooperation with the groove 77 thus effectively prevents water from flowing entirely around the periphery of the inner hook portion 53 when same is assembled within the outer hook portion 52 and thus prevents leakage between the joint formed by the interlocked hook portions.

Further, any water deposited in the upwardly opening channel formed by the center portion 51 of the panels 49 flows along the panel due to the slight angular inclination thereof and is deposited into the channel 36 formed in the frame members, whereupon the frame members conduct the water to any suitable disposal means, such as a downspout.

A still further beneficial effect resulting from the laterally offset arcuate portions 71 and 74 formed on the outer and inner hook portions, respectively, is that such offset portions substantially function as a locking or holding means for preventing the hook portions of adjacent panels from becoming disassembled whereupon the overall awning construction is able to sustain much greater downward loads, such as caused by the accumulation of snow. This increased downward load carrying capability is caused by the fact that the lateral offset portion 74 of the inner hook is received within the lateral offset portion 71 of the outer hook and, since the free edge 72 of the outer hook extends underneath the lateral offset portion 74 of the inner hook, the inner hook is prevented from moving downwardly out of engagement with the outer hook. The inner hook can become disengaged from the outer hook only by a relative angular or tilting movement between the adjacent panels, which angular movement substantially causes the inner hook to pivotally move around its point of contact with the free edge 72. However, since the awning construction is confined on the extreme side edges thereof by the frame member 23 and 24, and is further interconnected by means of the crossbeam 87, the adjacent panels are prevented from undergoing any substantial relative angular movement therebetween and thus the adjacent hook portions are not easily disassembled, and accordingly are able to sustain substantially large downward loads.

While a particular preferred embodiment of the invention has been disclosed above for illustrative purposes, variations or modifications thereof which lie within the scope of the appended claims are fully contemplated.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. An awning panel comprising:
- a center portion and hook portions fixedly secured to and longitudinally extending along the opposite edges of said center portion;
- each of said hook portions being substantially channel-shaped and having a pair of opposite sidewall portions connected by a substantially flat bridge portion;
- one hook portion having one sidewall portion fixedly connected between said bridge portion and said center portion, the other sidewall portion being of S-shaped configuration and having a laterally outwardly convex, arcuate portion adjacent the bridge portion and a laterally inwardly convex, arcuate portion adjacent said outwardly convex portion and remote from said bridge portion;
- the sidewall portions of the other hook portion having opposed, laterally outwardly convex, arcuate portions adjacent the bridge portion thereof;
- the size and configuration of said one hook portion adapting same for holding therein the other hook portion of a further awning panel and preventing linear relative separating movement of said hook portions by reason of interference by the inwardly convex portion of said S-shaped sidewall portion with one of the outwardly convex portions of said other hook portion but allowing disengagement of said awning panels upon relative pivotal movement thereof in a manner that one of the convex portions of said other hook portion is moved arcuately past the inwardly convex portion of said S-shaped sidewall portion of said one hook portion while the other convex portion of said other hook portion pivotally rides on the bridge portion and one sidewall portion of said one hook portion.

2. An awning panel as defined in claim 1, wherein the flat bridge portion of one of said hook portions has a groove formed in the upper surface thereof with said groove extending longitudinally of said panel.

3. An awning construction comprising:
- a frame and cover means supported on said frame, said cover means including a plurality of longitudinally extending, interconnected separable panels arranged in side-by-side relation;
- each of said panels comprising a center portion and a pair of downwardly opening hook portions fixedly secured to said center portion adjacent the opposite longitudinal edges thereof, said hook portions each being substantially channel-shaped and extending longitudinally of said center portion for substantially the complete length thereof;
- said plurality of panels including first and second panels positioned adjacent one another, and having outer and inner hook portions, respectively, thereon arranged with said inner hook portion being held in in-

terlocking engagement within said outer hook portion;

said outer and inner hook portions each having first and second laterally spaced sidewalls connected by a base portion;

the first sidewall of said outer hook portion being disposed between said base portion and the center portion of said first panel and said second sidewall of said outer hook portion being laterally spaced from said first sidewall, said second sidewall being double curved and including a laterally outwardly convex, arcuate portion adjacent said base portion and a laterally outwardly concave, arcuate portion remote from said base portion;

the first sidewall of said inner hook portion being disposed between said base portion and the center portion of said second panel and said second sidewall of said inner hook portion being fixedly connected to said base portion in laterally spaced relationship to said first sidewall, said first sidewall of said inner hook portion having a laterally outwardly convex, arcuate portion adjacent said base portion, said second side wall of said inner hook portion having a laterally inwardly deflected lower portion.

4. An awning construction as defined in claim 3, wherein said frame includes a frame member having a substantially channel-shaped cross section positioned adjacent and connected to the longitudinal ends of said plurality of panels for supporting same, said frame member defining a channel positioned below said panels with said channel being in communication with the space above said panels.

5. An awning construction as defined in claim 3, wherein said base portions of said hook portions are substantially flat and further including a support member positioned intermediate the ends of and above said plurality of panels and extending at an angle relative to the longitudinal direction of said individual panels, said support member being in abutting contact with said flat base portion, and means for fixedly securing the inter-engaged hook portions of adjacent panels to said support member, said panels depending from and lying below said support member.

6. An awning construction as defined in claim 3 wherein the inner hook portion is disposed within the outer hook portion with the convex and concave portions of the outer hook portions being in closed nested relationship with the convex portion of the inner hook portion, whereby passage of rain water between said nested sidewalls is inhibited by the reversal of direction of the path thereof along the inner surface of said double curved sidewall as well as by the close nested fit of said sidewalls along said convex portions.

7. An awning construction as defined in claim 6, wherein the base portion of the inner hook portion has a groove formed in the upper surface thereof with said groove extending longitudinally throughout the length of said inner hook portion, said groove providing for runoff of water seeping along and past the interior surface of said double curved wall whereby to preclude water seepage between said hook portions and into the space below said cover means.

8. An awning construction as defined in claim 3 wherein said second sidewall of said inner hook portion includes a further laterally outwardly convex, arcuate portion which is adjacent said base portion and is connected to said deflected portion and is snugly receivable against the base portion and the first sidewall of the outer hook portion, said first mentioned convex portion of said inner hook portion being insertable into nesting relation with said convex portion of said outer hook portion by pivotal movement of said further convex portion against the base portion and first sidewall of the outer hook portion, said inner hook portion being prevented from linear movement into the outer hook portion by interference with the sidewalls thereof.

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ALFRED C. PERHAM, Primary Examiner

S. D. BURKE III, Assistant Examiner

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