May 5, 1953 H. McCABE 2,637,384

DRAPERY HOLDER AND LOOPER

Filed Nov. 20, 1951 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1

Fig. 1.

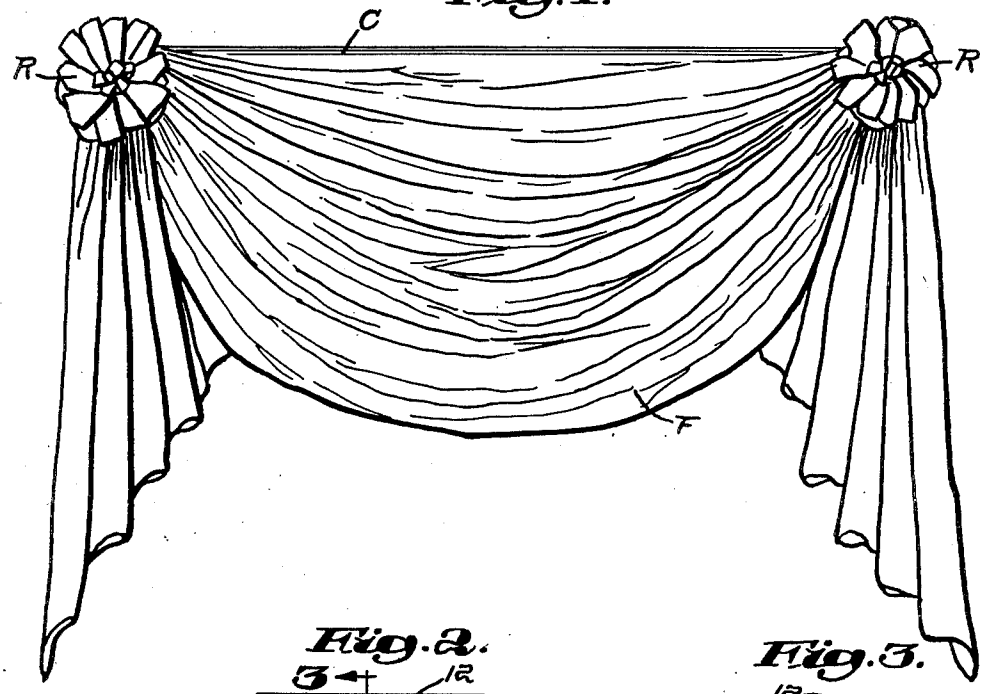


Fig. 2.

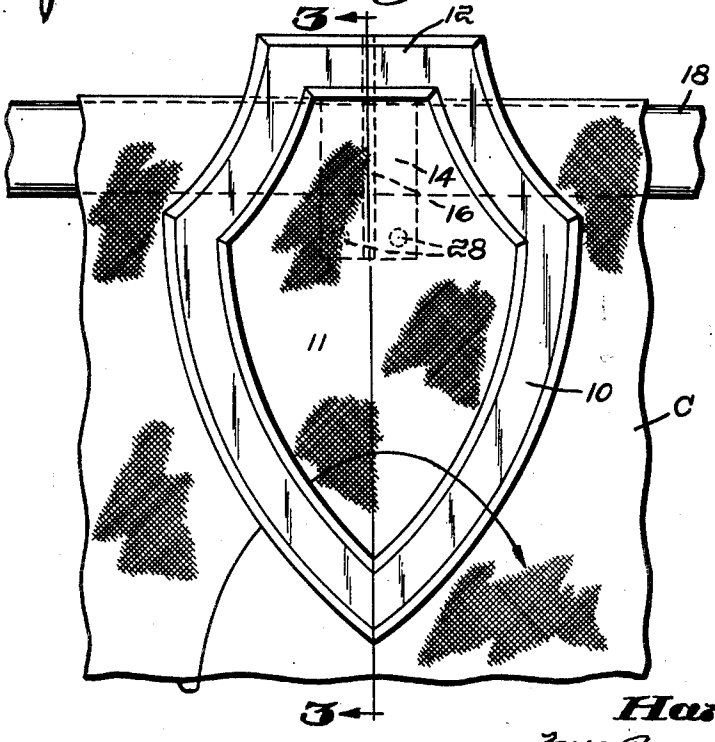
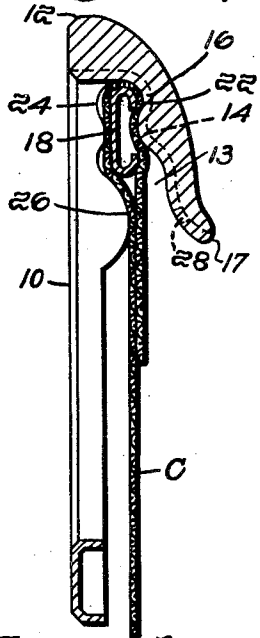


Fig. 3.



Inventor:
Harold McCabe,
by Emery, Booth, Townsend,
Miller & Kleindienst Attys

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Fig. 4.

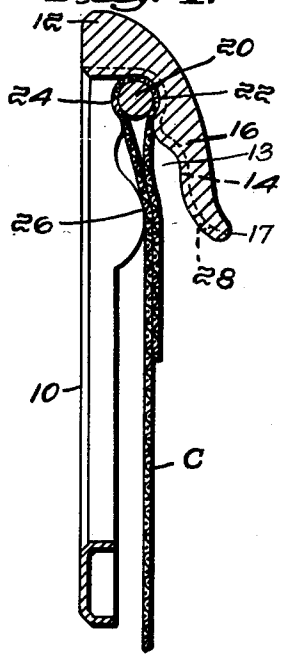
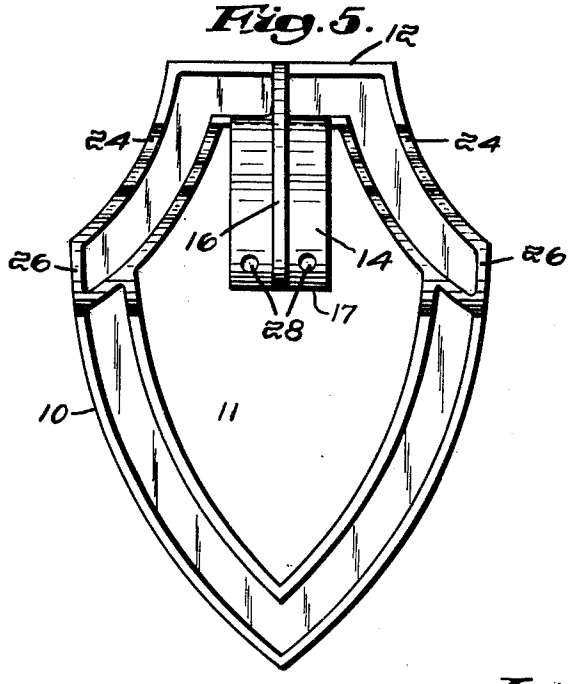


Fig. 5.



Inventor:
Harold McCabe,
by Emery, Booth, Townsend
Miller & Weidner Attys

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DRAPERY HOLDER AND LOOPER

Harold McCabe, Somerville, Mass.

Application November 20, 1951, Serial No. 257,298

3 Claims. (Cl. 160—349)

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This invention relates to a device facilitating the mounting and draping of curtains, valances, and the like. The object is to provide a device of molded synthetic plastic, inherently attractive, which may be cheaply produced and marketed, which has no movable parts, which is simple to apply without the use of tools and does not require any sewing, and which will not only act to support the curtain on its rod, but will provide a facility for draping it to give a wide variety of effects.

My invention will be well understood by reference to the following description of the illustrative embodiment thereof shown by way of example in the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Fig. 1 is a front elevation of a draped curtain showing one form of display which can easily be achieved by utilizing the device illustrated in the other figures;

Fig. 2 shows a fragment of a curtain rod and a curtain secured to the rod by means of the device forming the subject matter of the invention, which appears in front elevation;

Fig. 3 is a section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 3 showing another type of rod; and

Fig. 5 is a rear elevation of the device.

In Fig. 1 of the drawing I have shown a curtain which may be considered suspended on a rod which does not appear in the figure. Portions of the depending curtain C are gathered together in the form of rosettes R, and the intermediate portion of the fabric between hangs as a festoon F. Such an arrangement, among others, may be easily provided by the use of the invention, as will appear.

Referring now more particularly to Figs. 2, 3 and 5 of the drawing, the device may be molded from suitable synthetic plastic as an effectively integral structure, and in the example shown is a single unitary piece without any joinings. It comprises a ring-like front portion 10 having an open center 11 which may have, if desired, an ornamental form such as the shield-shaped form illustrated and which, for convenience, to provide a single identifying word, I shall refer to as a medallion. Projecting rearwardly and downwardly from the rear face of the top portion 12 of this medallion is a hook 14 defining a downwardly opening throat 13. It may be reinforced by a central rib 16 as best seen in Fig. 5. The bill 17 of the hook may be directed rearwardly as seen in Fig. 3, to facilitate its engagement over a curtain rod. While the hook ex-

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tends in opposing relation to the open center 11 of the medallion, its length is short relatively to the vertical height of the medallion 10, for a purpose which will appear. Apposing the hook contours are provided medallion contours which cooperate to provide a seat or seats for curtain rods. Conveniently and preferably these are arranged as here shown on the back of the frame-like sides of the medallion at either side of the hook, in the form of suitably contoured integral ribs. Referring to Fig. 3 it will be seen that when viewed from the side the device is a bifurcated structure, the medallion 10 being a front leg and the hook 14 a relatively short rear leg.

The edge of the curtain C may be folded over a curtain rod, as 18 in Fig. 3 or 20 in Fig. 4, and the device applied by a movement of approach from above. The medallion should be at the front. The curtain is thus supported on the rod and may thereafter be draped in a manner to be described. It will be noted that where the contours opposing the hook are at opposite sides thereof, as herein disclosed, there will be a three-point engagement of the device to prevent tipping. The plastic has a slight resiliency adapting it to various thicknesses of fabric, and assuring a good grip. At the same time it is in a relative sense rigid, and does not require to be spread in application or compressed after application.

In Figs. 3 and 4 I have shown two different types of rods, a flat rod 18 in Fig. 3, and a round rod 20 in Fig. 4. To adapt the device most efficiently to both types of rods, the hook is formed adjacent the base of its throat with a cylindrically contoured surface 22 which will partly encircle the cylindrical rod 20 as seen in Fig. 4. The opposing contours on the back of the medallion include a cylindrically formed surface 24 opposite the above mentioned surface so that these two surfaces cooperatively fit around the cylindrical rod 20 in the manner seen in Fig. 4. Below the surface 22, the contours which cooperate with the hook include a shoulder 26 spaced from the surface 24 and adapted to engage the lower end of a flat rod 16 when its upper edge is received between such cylindrically formed surfaces 22 and 24 as illustrated in Fig. 3.

When the curtain has been mounted by means of one or more of the devices just described, it may be draped by grasping a portion of the depending material and passing it from the rear forwardly through the open center of the medallion 10 as indicated by the arrow in Fig. 2. Thus in the device shown in Fig. 1 the rosettes R were formed by passing the material through two such

devices, after which the material so drawn through was arranged in the rosette form shown. Alternatively, the material could be permitted to hang as a swag. It is loosely supported in the sense that it may be freely adjusted within the open center to dispose the material in the most effective manner.

It will be apparent that if a mass of curtain material is to be drawn through the opening 11 the opening must be of ample size. Furthermore if, as in the example shown, the opening extends substantially to the top of the mounting rod, as 18 in Fig. 2, the portion of the rod which lies behind it in effect restricts the size of the opening. Also the depending hook lying as it does, see Fig. 3, close to the back of the opening forms an obstruction to the passage of such a mass. Therefore, as shown, at least the major portion of the area of the opening lies below the end of the hook and out of alignment therewith in the front to rear direction, vertical to the plane of the paper viewing Fig. 2. The drawing illustrates to scale an actual commercial construction as mounted on standard curtain rods, a round rod one quarter inch in diameter (Fig. 4) and a flat rod three-quarters of an inch wide (Fig. 2). The height of the opening is 3½ inches and its width 2¼ inches. It might be larger to more easily accommodate heavy drapes without being impracticable on lighter ones. On the other hand while a looper with a similar opening 2¾ inches high and 1½ inches wide can be used for very light materials, such dimensions might be considered as substantially the limit of practicability and not to be recommended.

The form of opening shown is advantageous in that the sides converge to define an angle at the bottom, herein a little less than 90° (measured between the tangents). The weight of material on either side draws the curtain down into this angle compressing it at this point, holding it centered and effectively preventing slipping either forwardly or rearwardly from the adjusted position.

Referring to Fig. 2 of the drawings it will be seen that the hook is opposite the open center of the medallion and thus accessible from the front thereof. It may be provided with holes 28 so that it may be secured in position by nails or screws to a vertical surface whereby the device may be supported where no rod is used. The opening formed in the medallion extends below the hook portion and is open at the back for the passage of the curtain, and curtain fabric may be passed through the open center in the same way when the device is so supported. The ordinary use of the device however will be in connection with a rod of one type or another or a similar

horizontal supporting member such, for instance, as a valance board.

I am aware that the invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or essential attributes thereof, and I therefore desire the present embodiment to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive, as is in fact clear in several matters from the description itself. Reference is to be had to the appended claims to indicate those principles of the invention exemplified by the particular embodiment described and which I desire to secure by Letters Patent.

I claim:

1. A device for facilitating the draping of curtains formed as an effectively integral structure of molded material comprising an upper portion formed with spaced front and rear resilient legs extending downwardly and grippingly engageable over a curtain rod by a movement of approach from above, the upper portion at the front being extended downward as an open centered frame to a point below said rear leg, at least the major segment of the open area within the frame being disposed out of front to rear alignment with said rear leg to provide an unobstructed opening of substantial size to pass a gathered together portion of a curtain to facilitate hanging and draping the curtain from opposite sides of the frame. ing the curtain material from opposite sides of the frame.

2. A device as set forth in claim 1 wherein said rear leg is centrally located and the front leg comprises parts spaced to either side of the rear leg, the forwardly presented face of the rear leg having at its upper portion a cylindrically formed surface partly to encircle a cylindrical curtain rod, the said parts of the front leg having at their rearwardly presented face a cylindrically formed surface in opposing relation to the above mentioned surface and, spaced therefrom, a shoulder to engage the lower edge of a flat rod, when the upper edge of such a rod is received between said cylindrically formed surfaces.

3. A device as set forth in claim 1 wherein the frame includes downwardly converging sides defining an angle at the bottom of the opening.

HAROLD McCABE.

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