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(54) **WINDOW COVERING WITH SHADE PANELS HAVING FREE LOWER EDGES**

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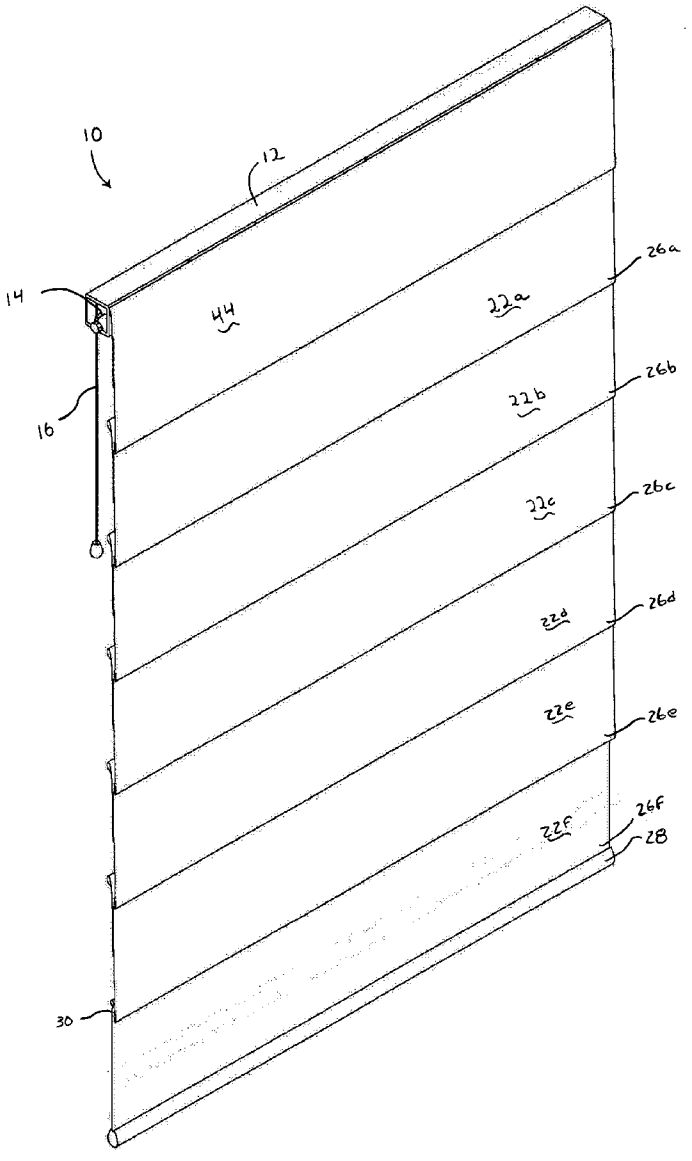
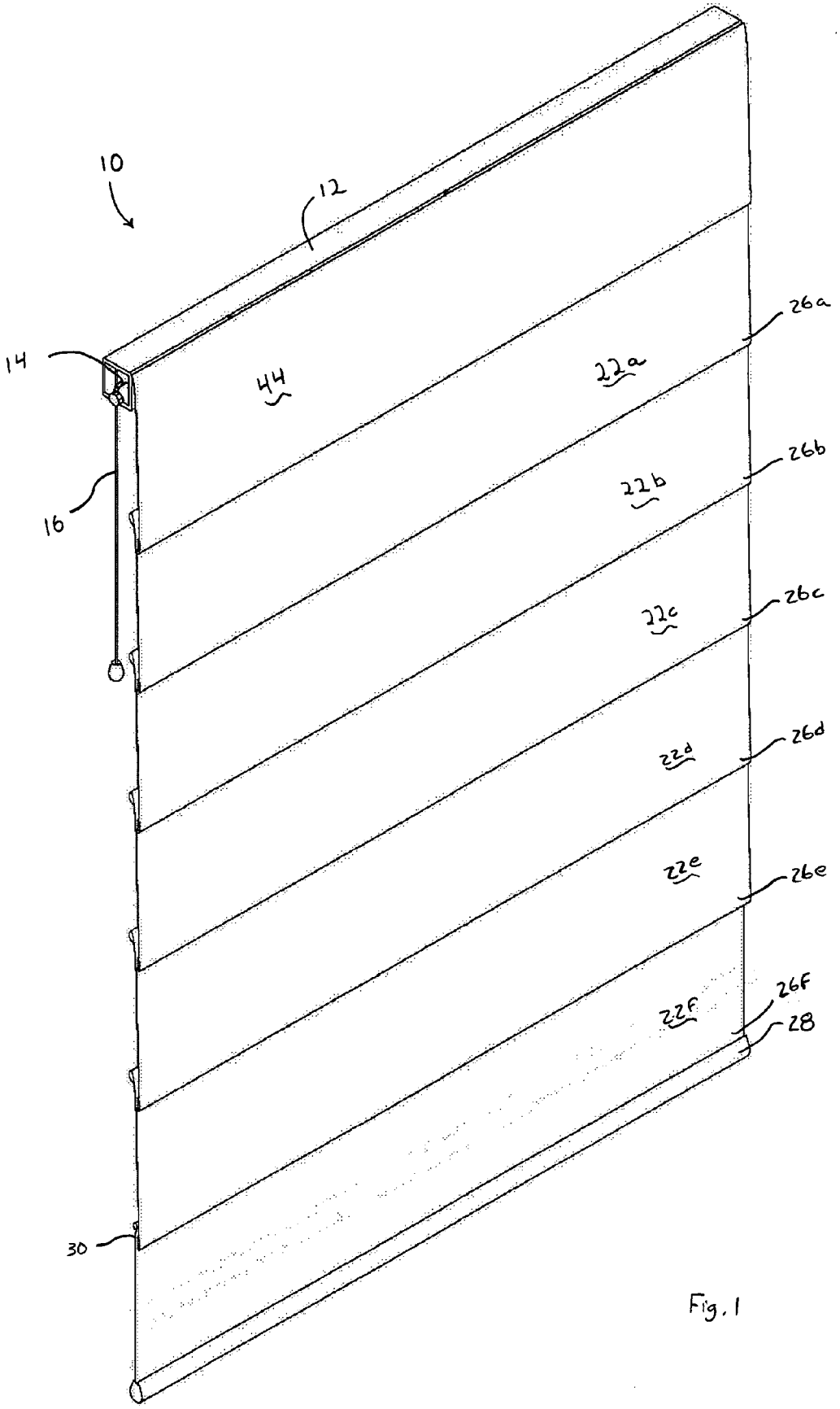
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A window covering including a plurality of panels vertically suspended from a vertical securement member is provided. The plurality of panels is secured with the securement member about an upper longitudinal portion of the panels at spaced intervals along the securement member. The panels are freely suspended or dangle from the securement member such that a lower longitudinal portion of the panels is not connected with the securement member or the opening member. A weighted edge member may be included about the lower longitudinal portion of the panels. The window covering is opened by adjusting the opening member to rearwardly and vertically stack the plurality of panels.

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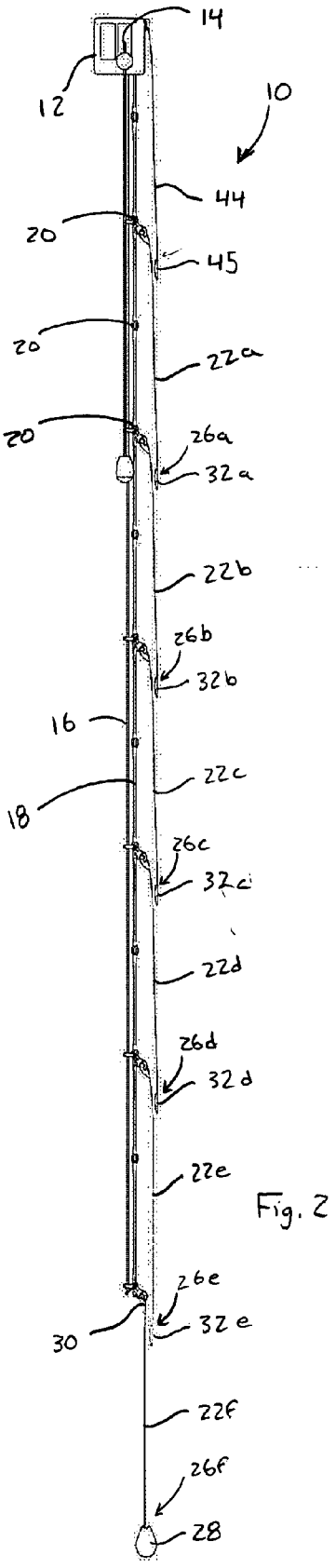
30

Fig. 1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32a
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26b
32b
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22e
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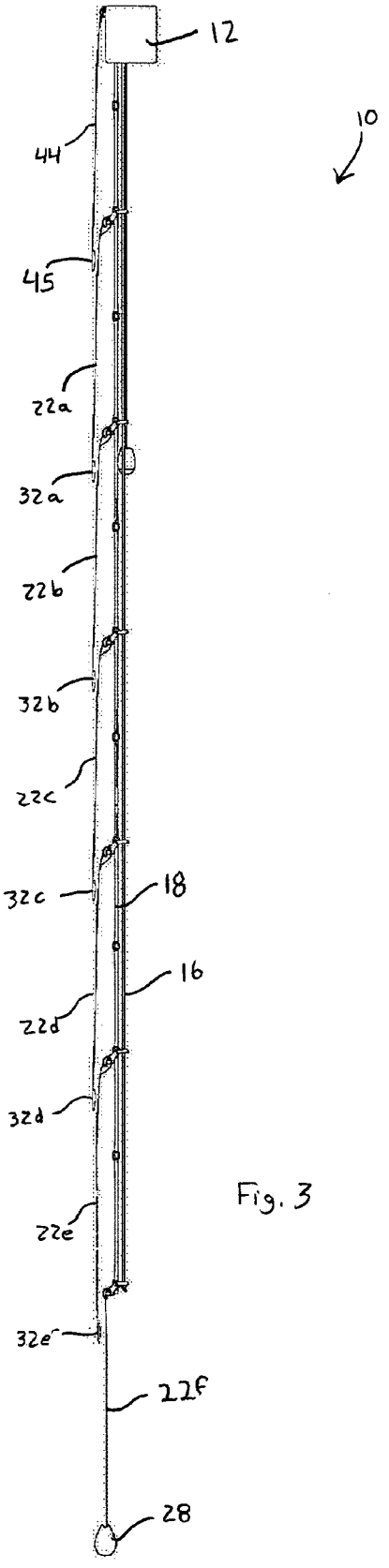
30
32e
22f
26f
28

Fig. 2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16
22d
32d
22e
32e
22f
28

Fig. 3

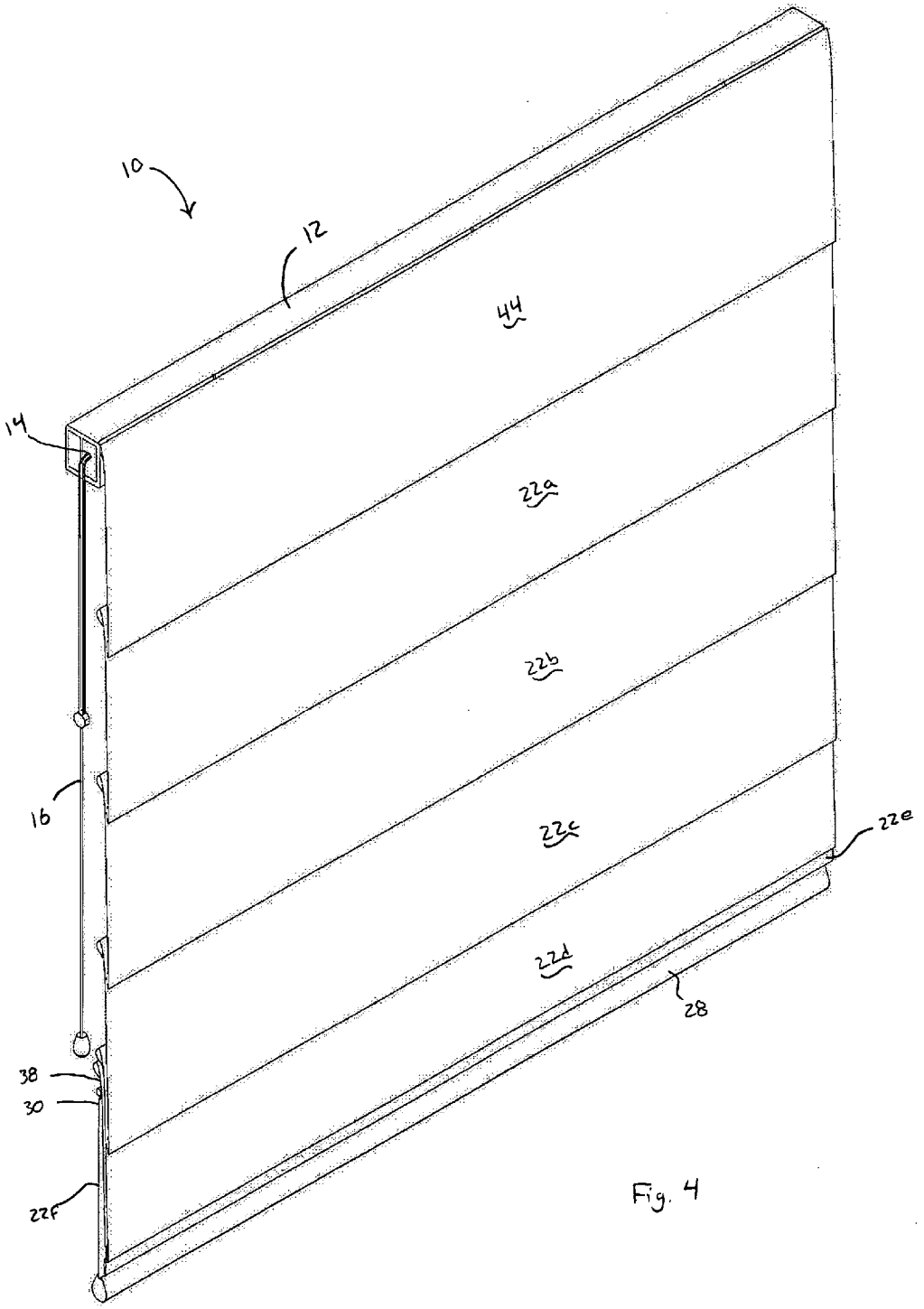


Fig. 4

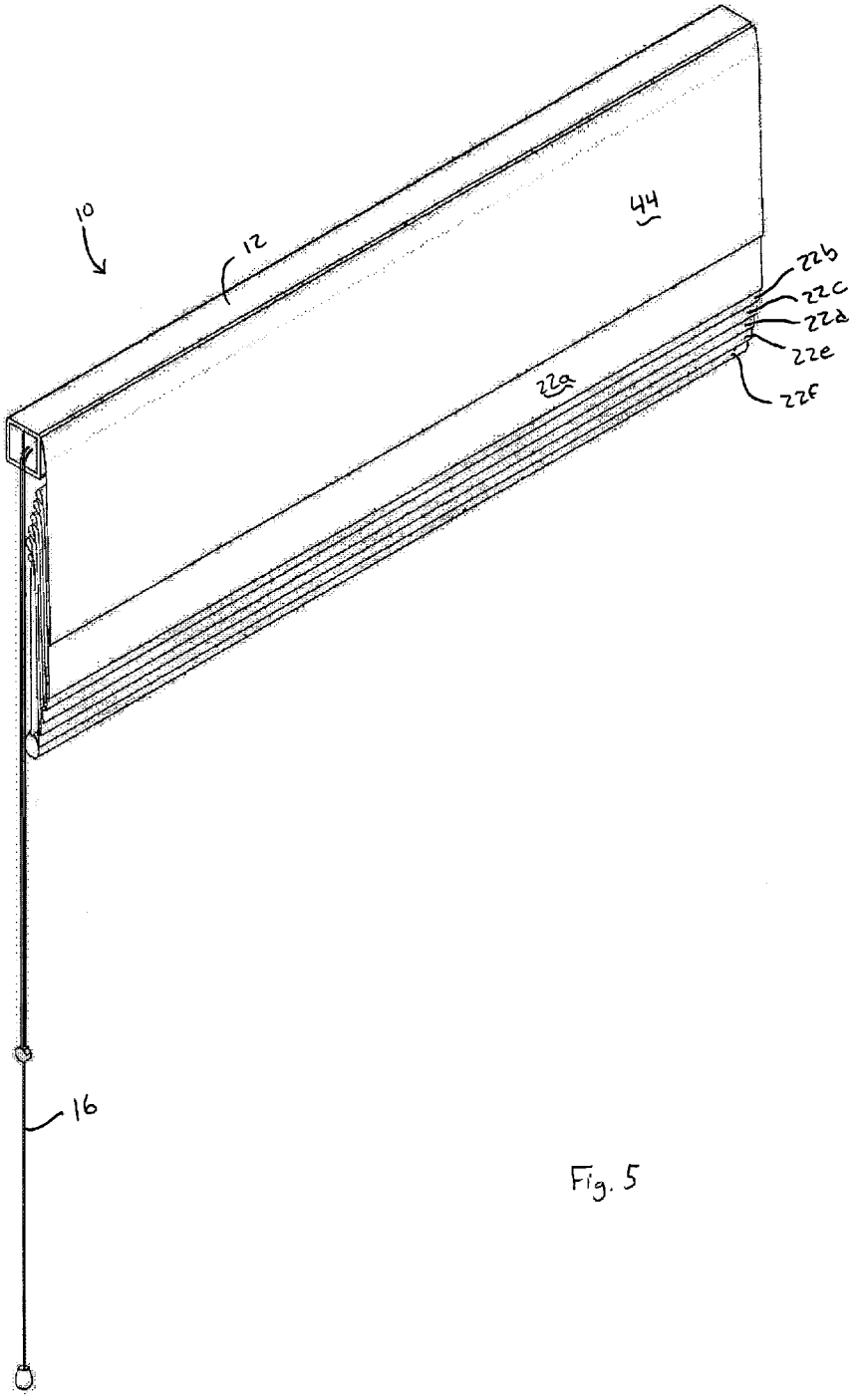
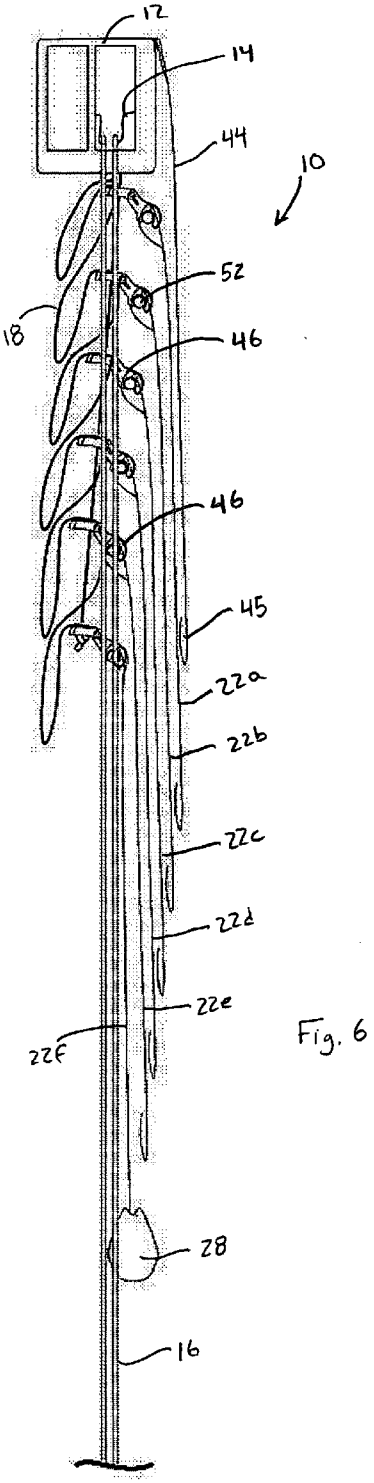


Fig. 5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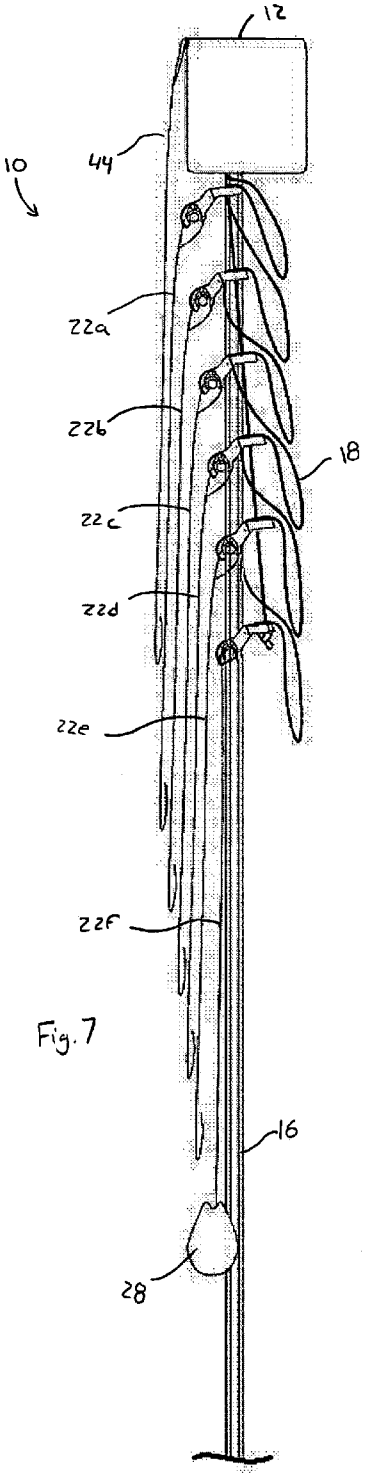
22b
22c
22d
22e
22F
28
16

Fig. 6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22a
22b
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22c
22d
22e
22F
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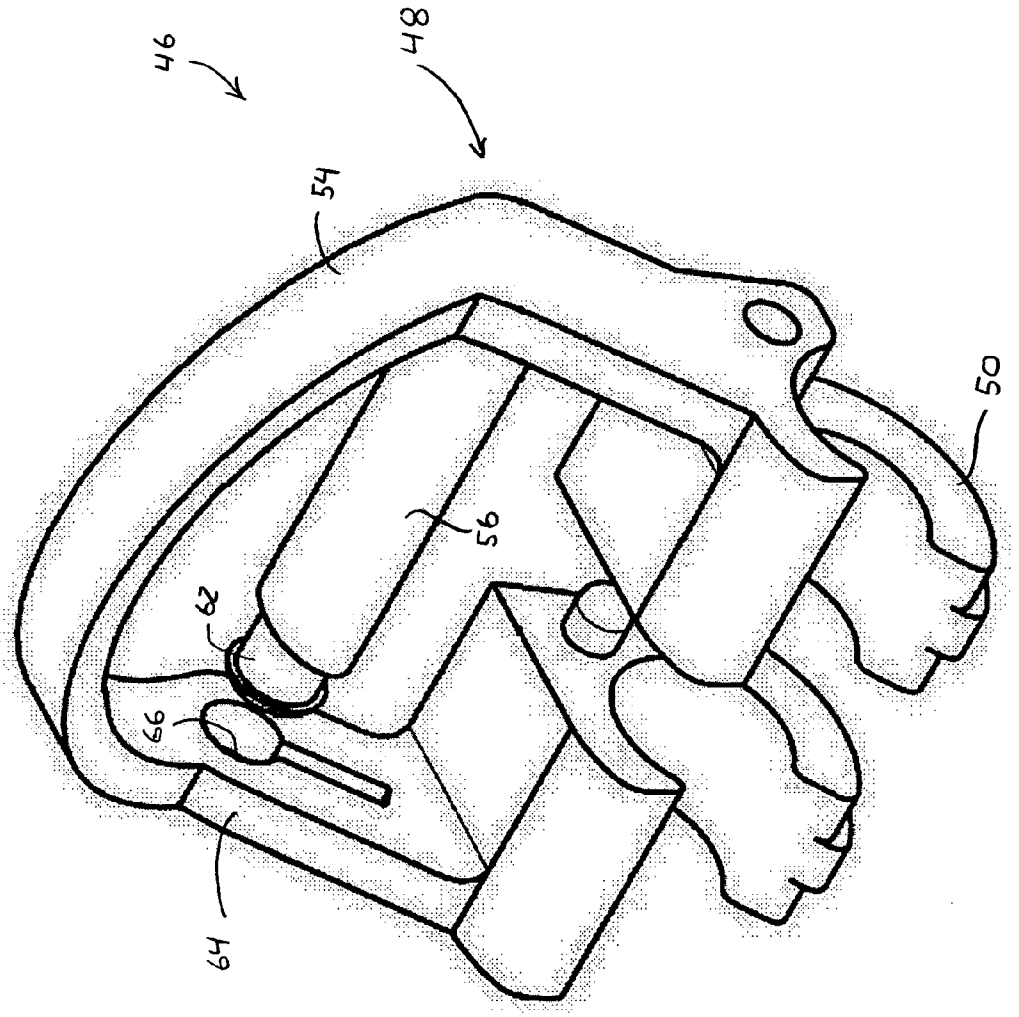
28

Fig. 7

Fig. 8



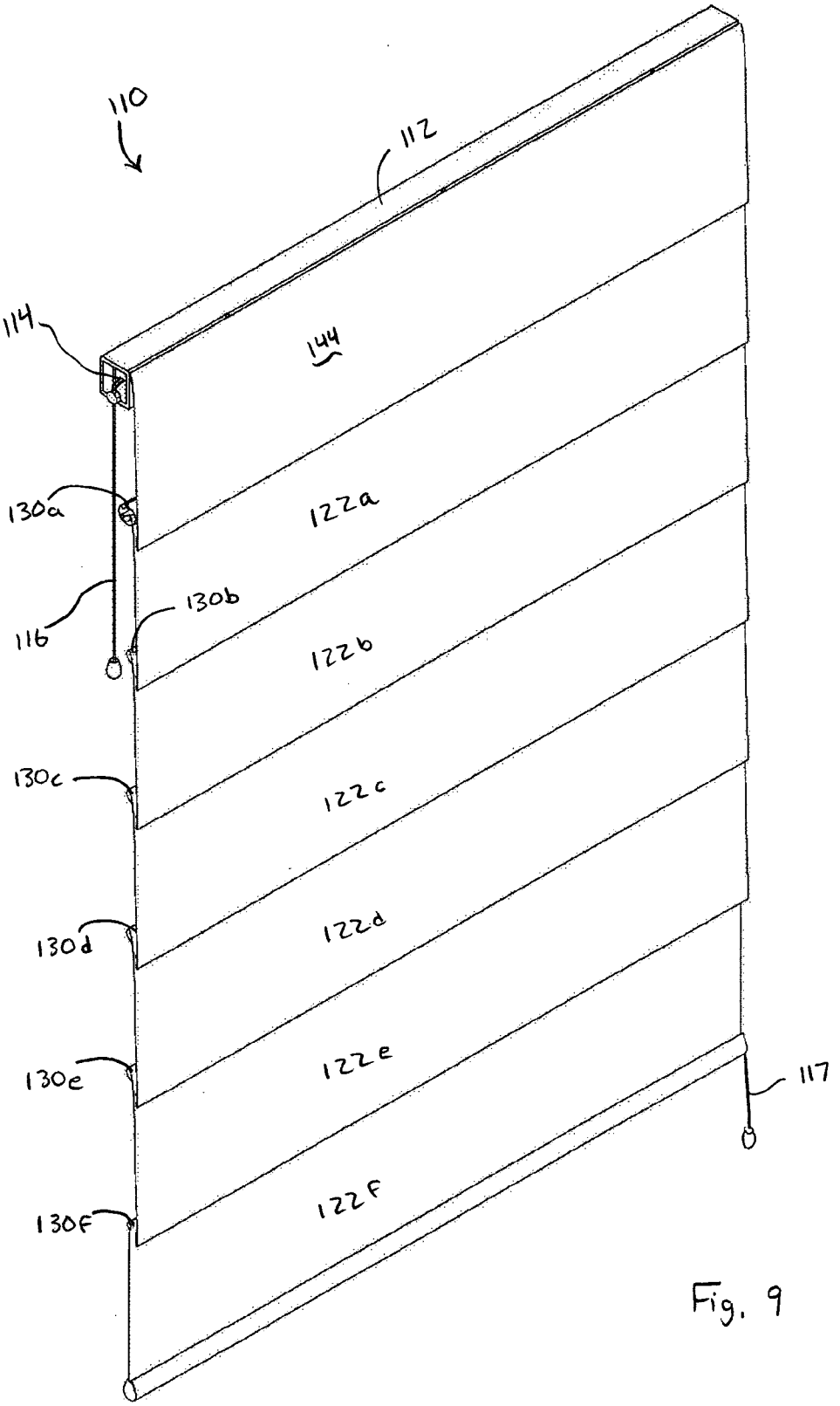

110
112
114
144
130a
122a
116
130b
122b
130c
122c
130d
122d
130e
122e
117
130F
122F

Fig. 9

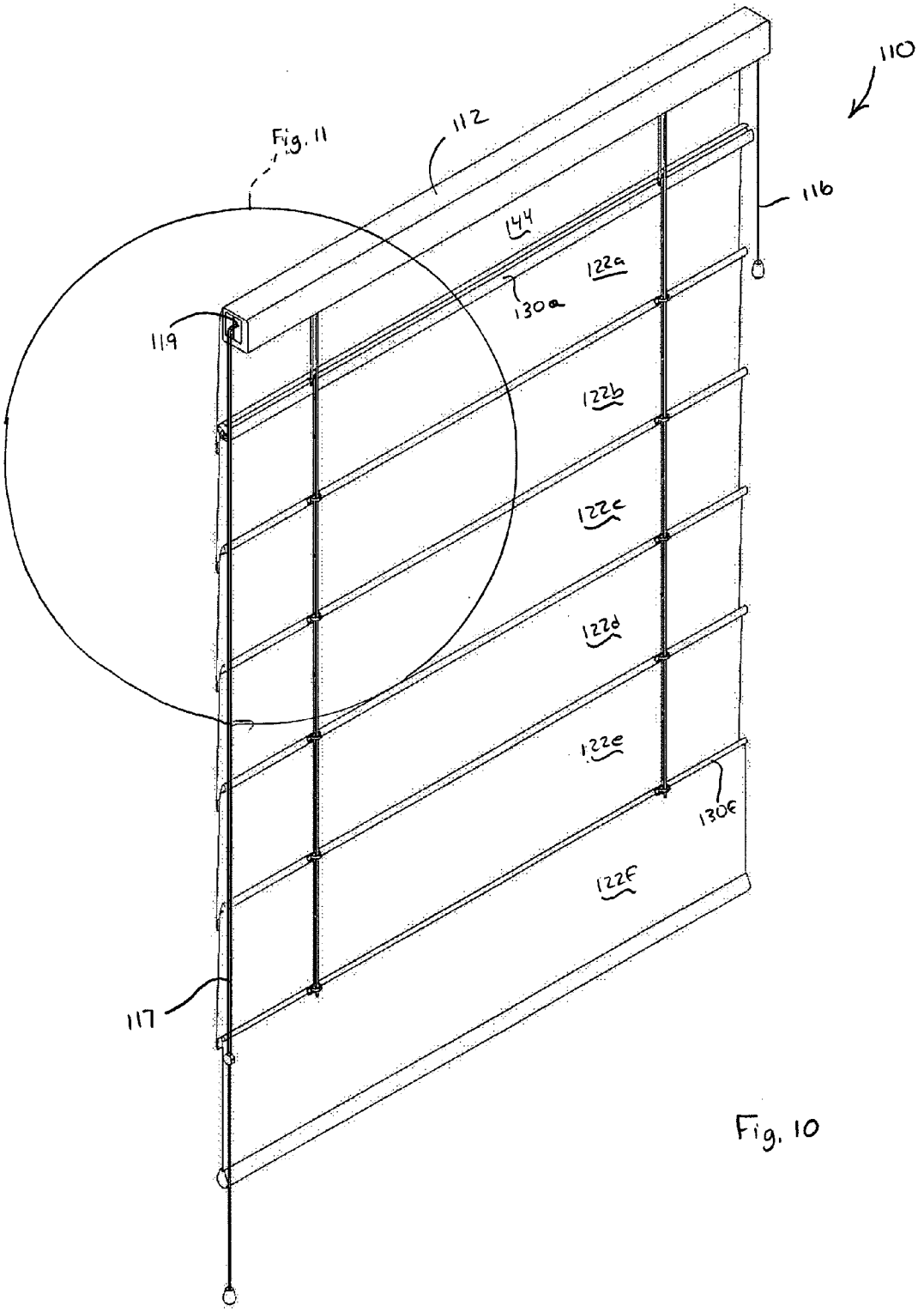

110
112
Fig. 11
116
144
122a
130a
119
122b
122c
122d
122e
130F
122F
117

Fig. 10

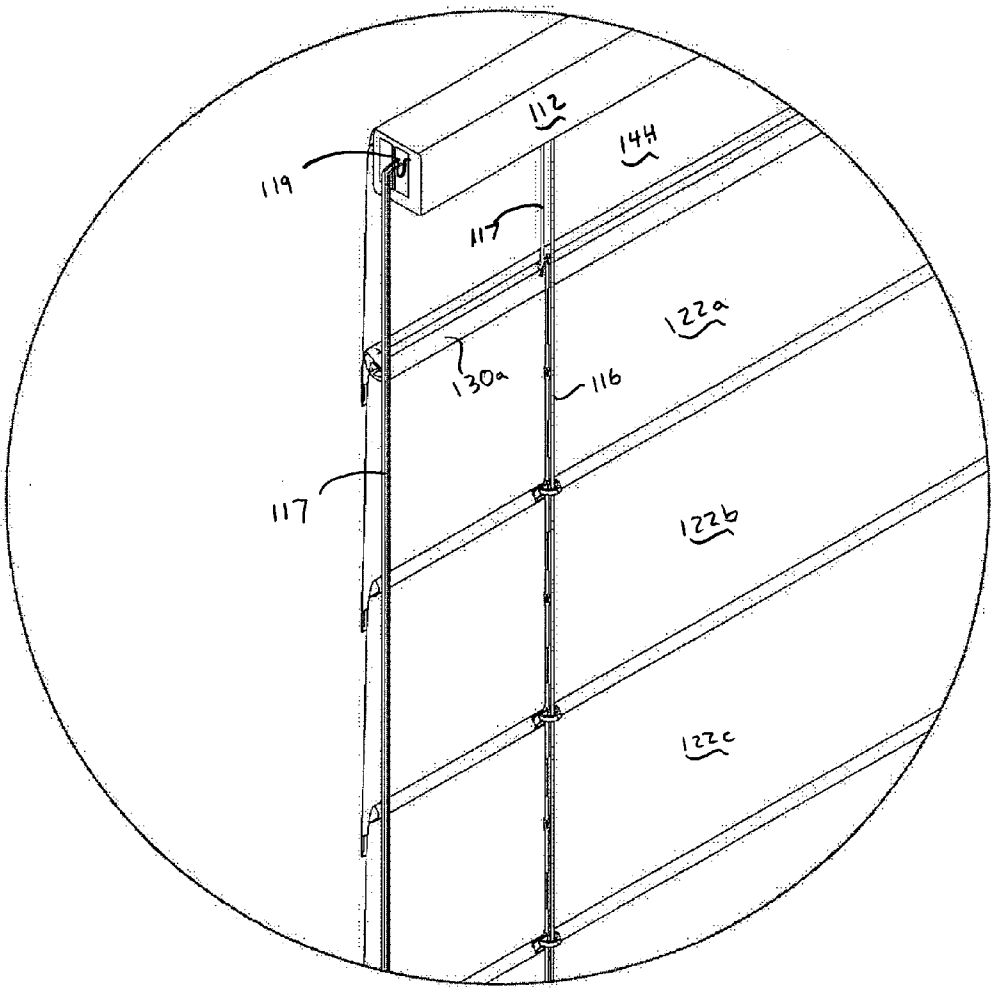


Fig. 11

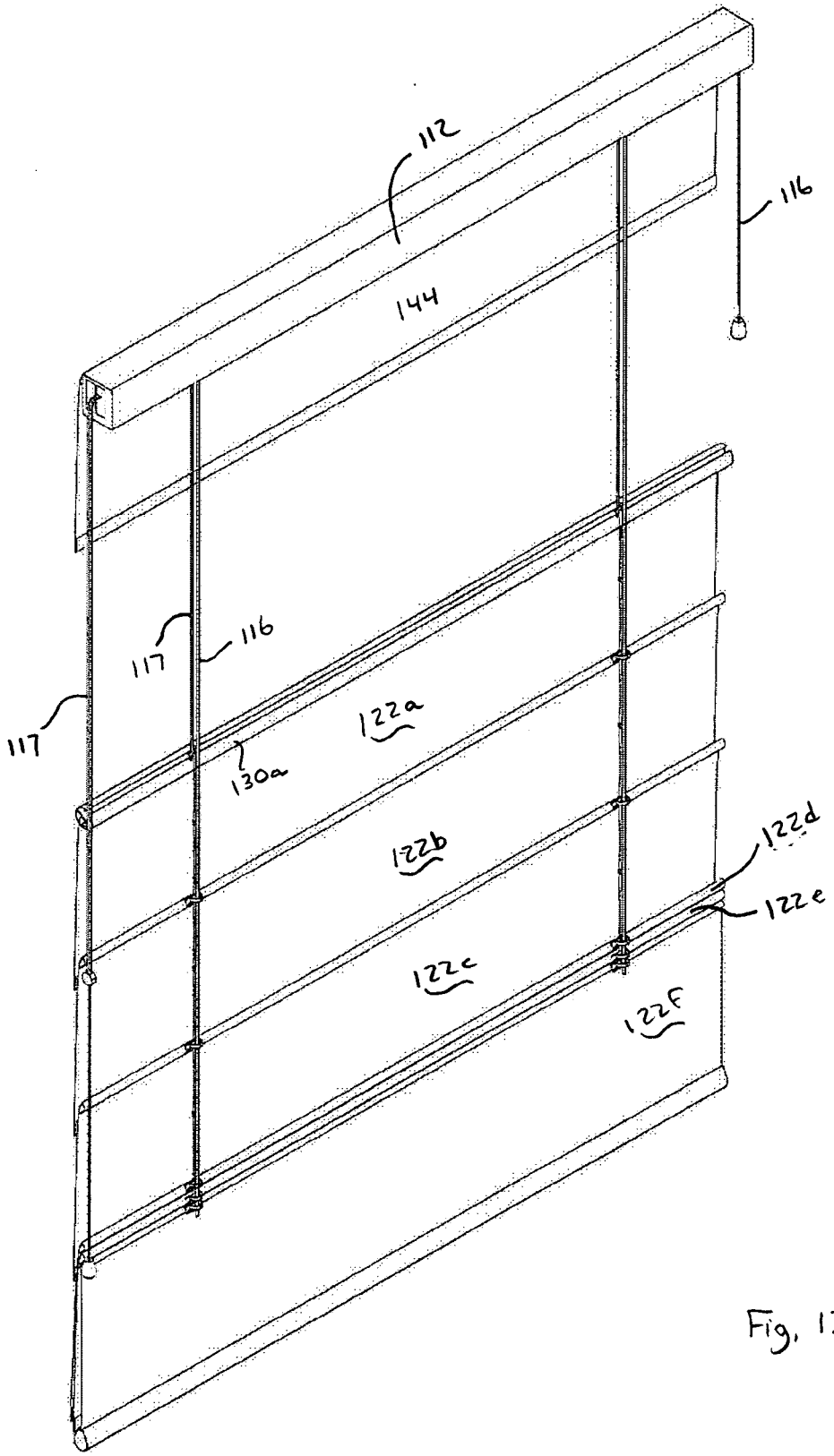


Fig. 12

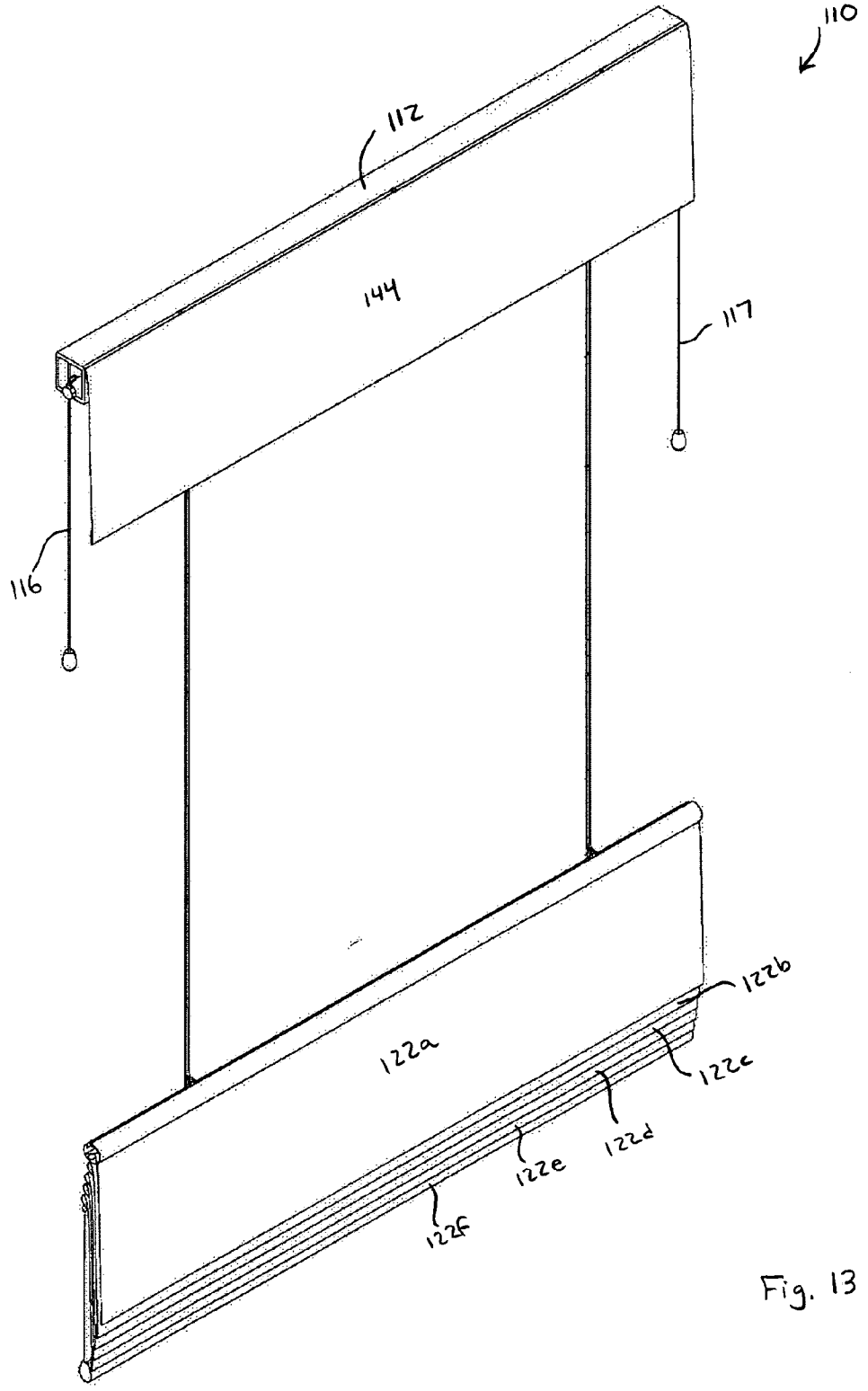


Fig. 13

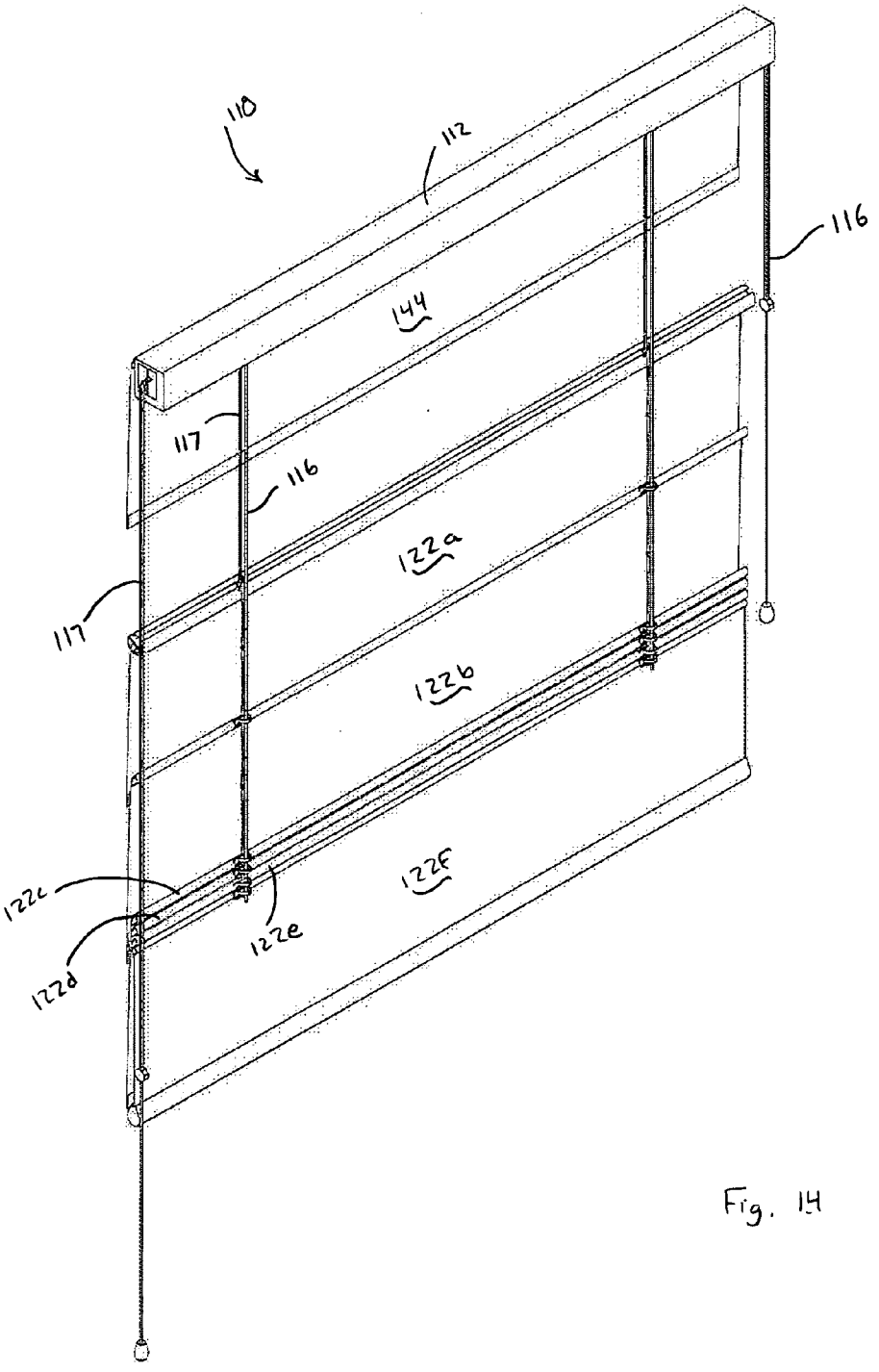


Fig. 14

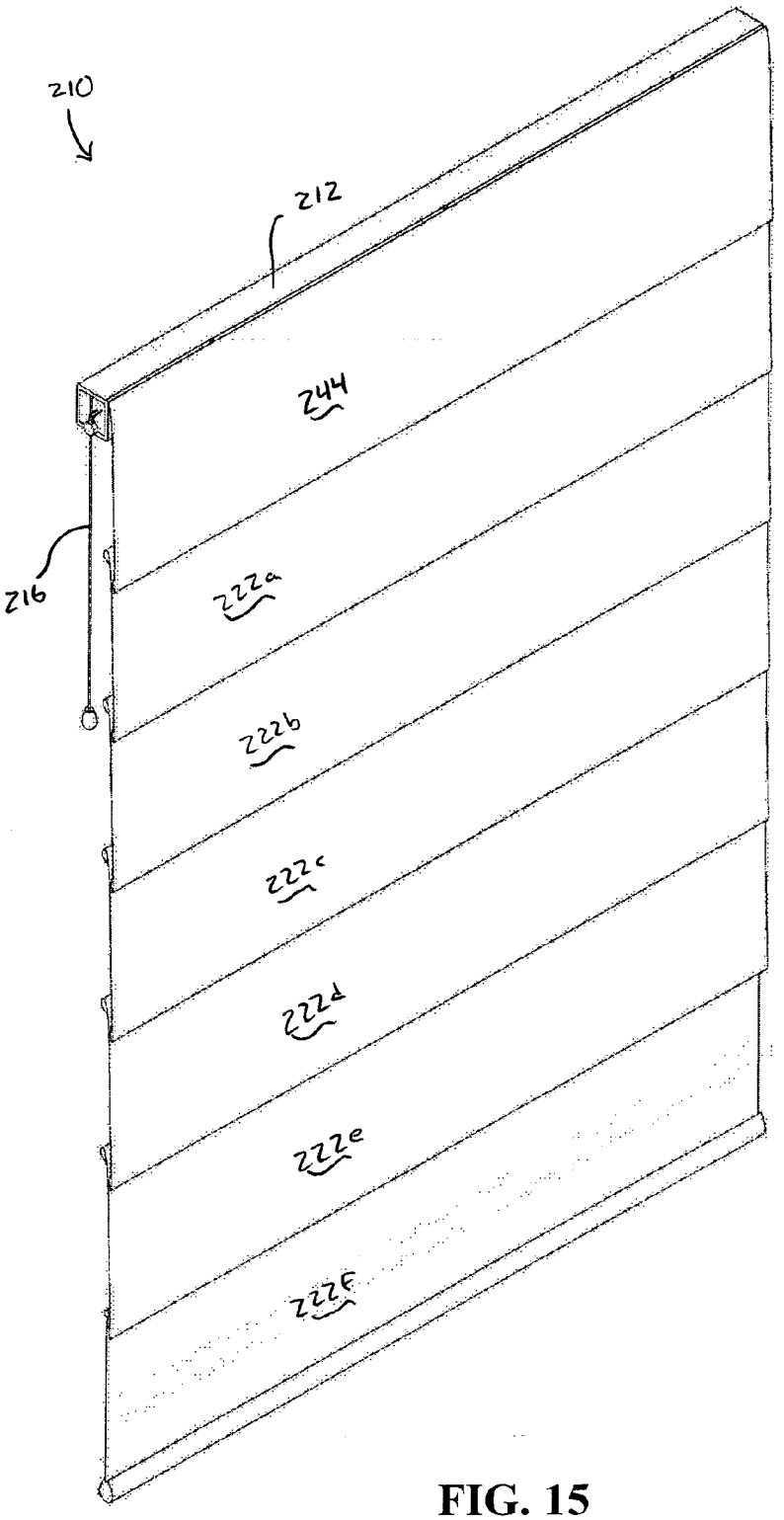


FIG. 15

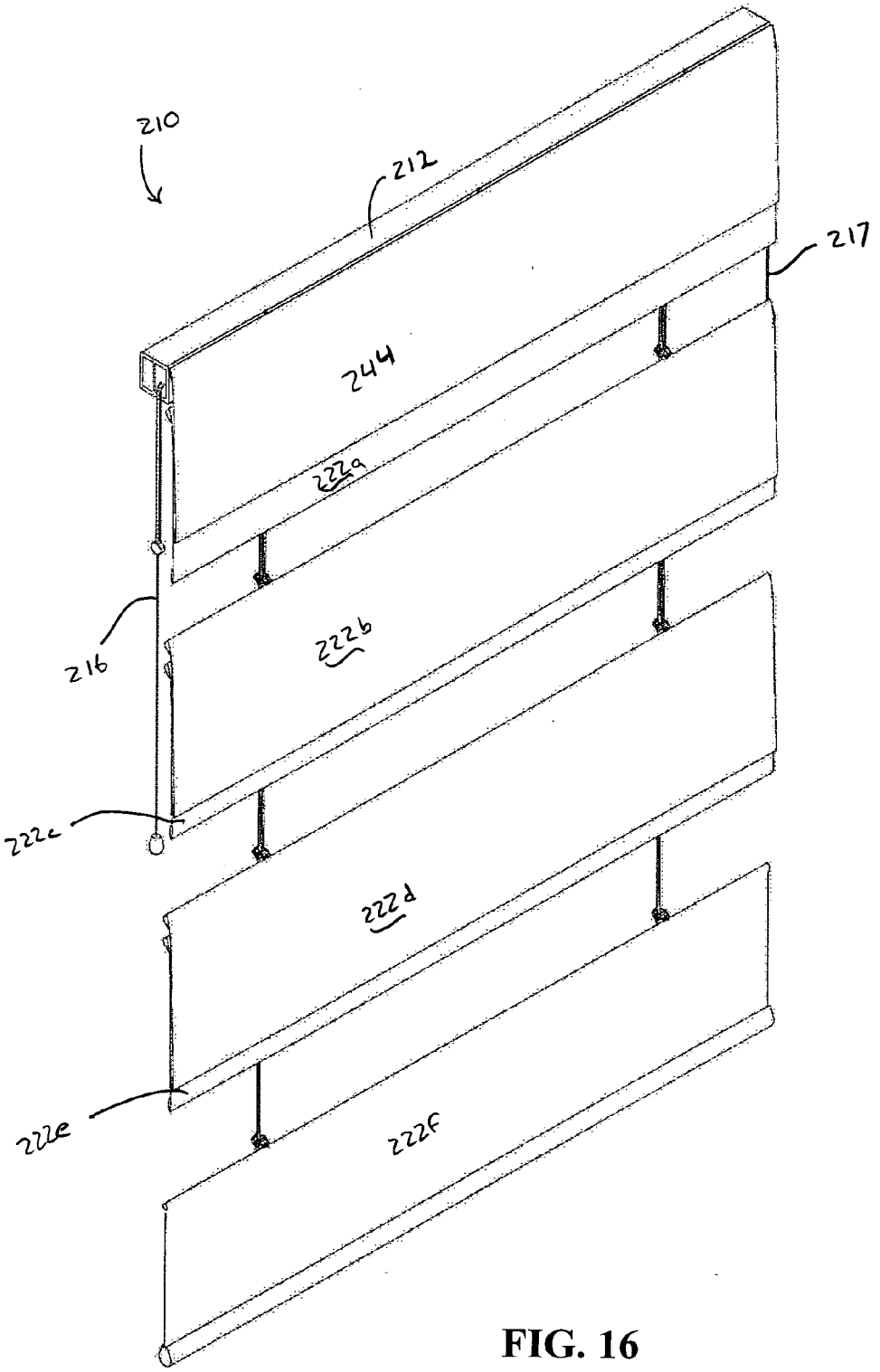


FIG. 16

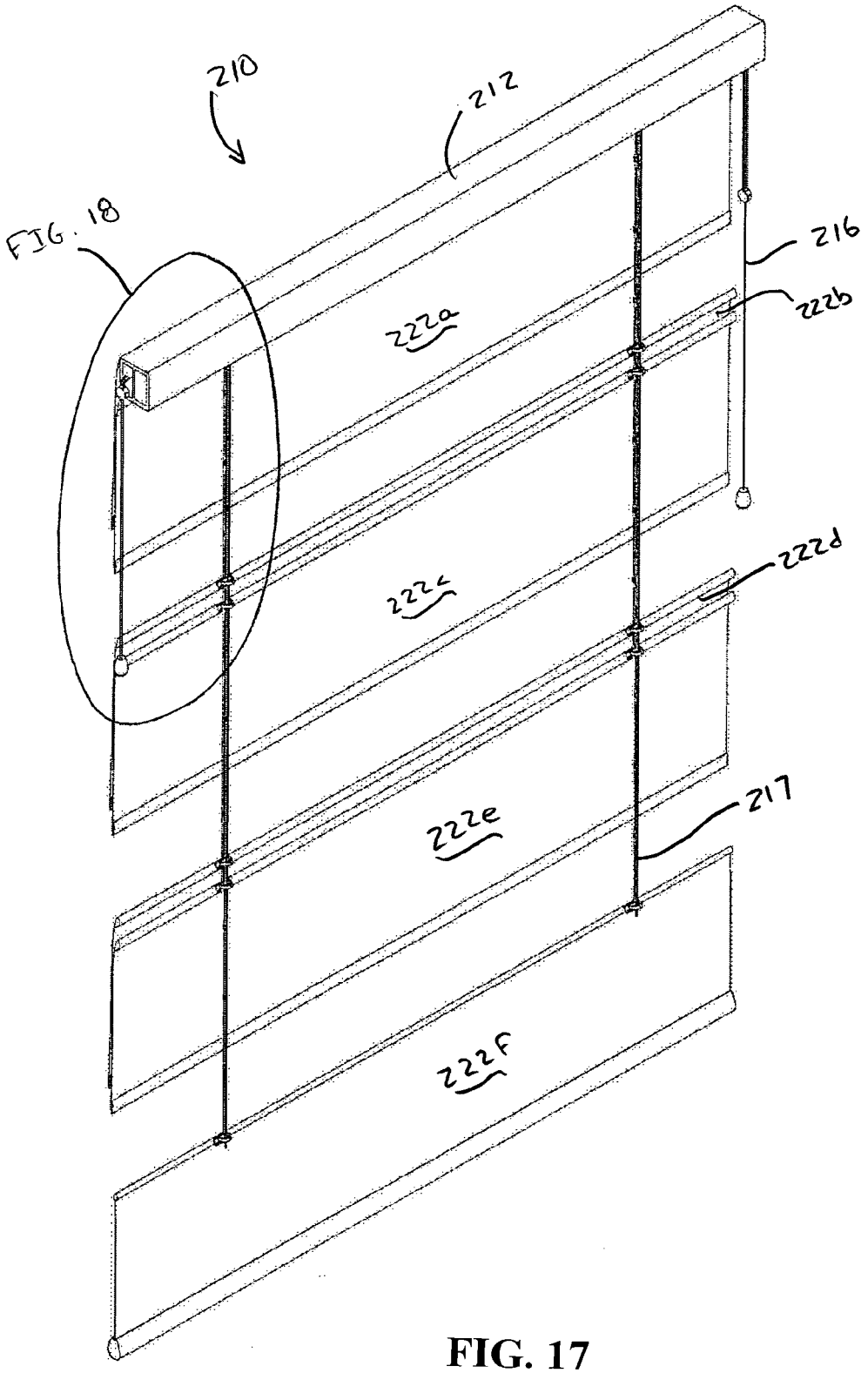


FIG. 17

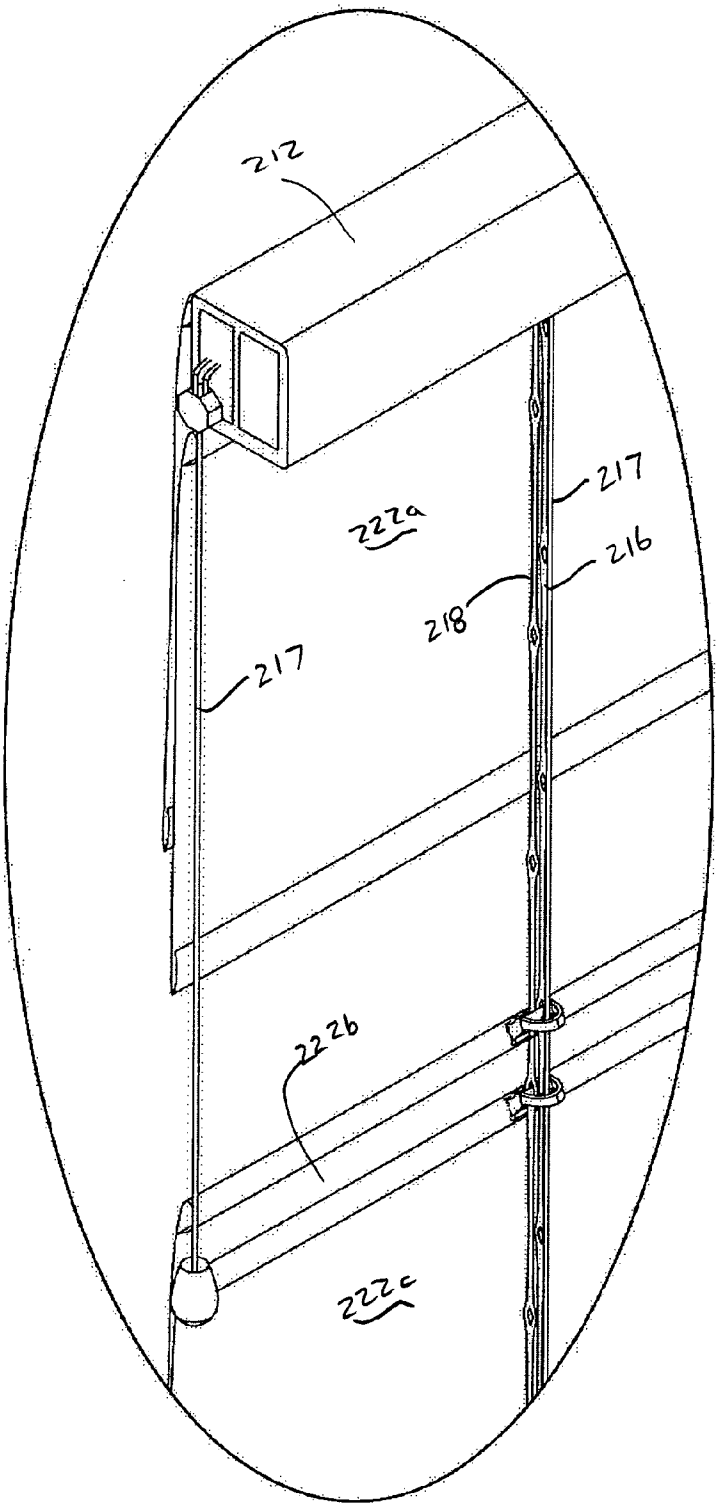


FIG. 18

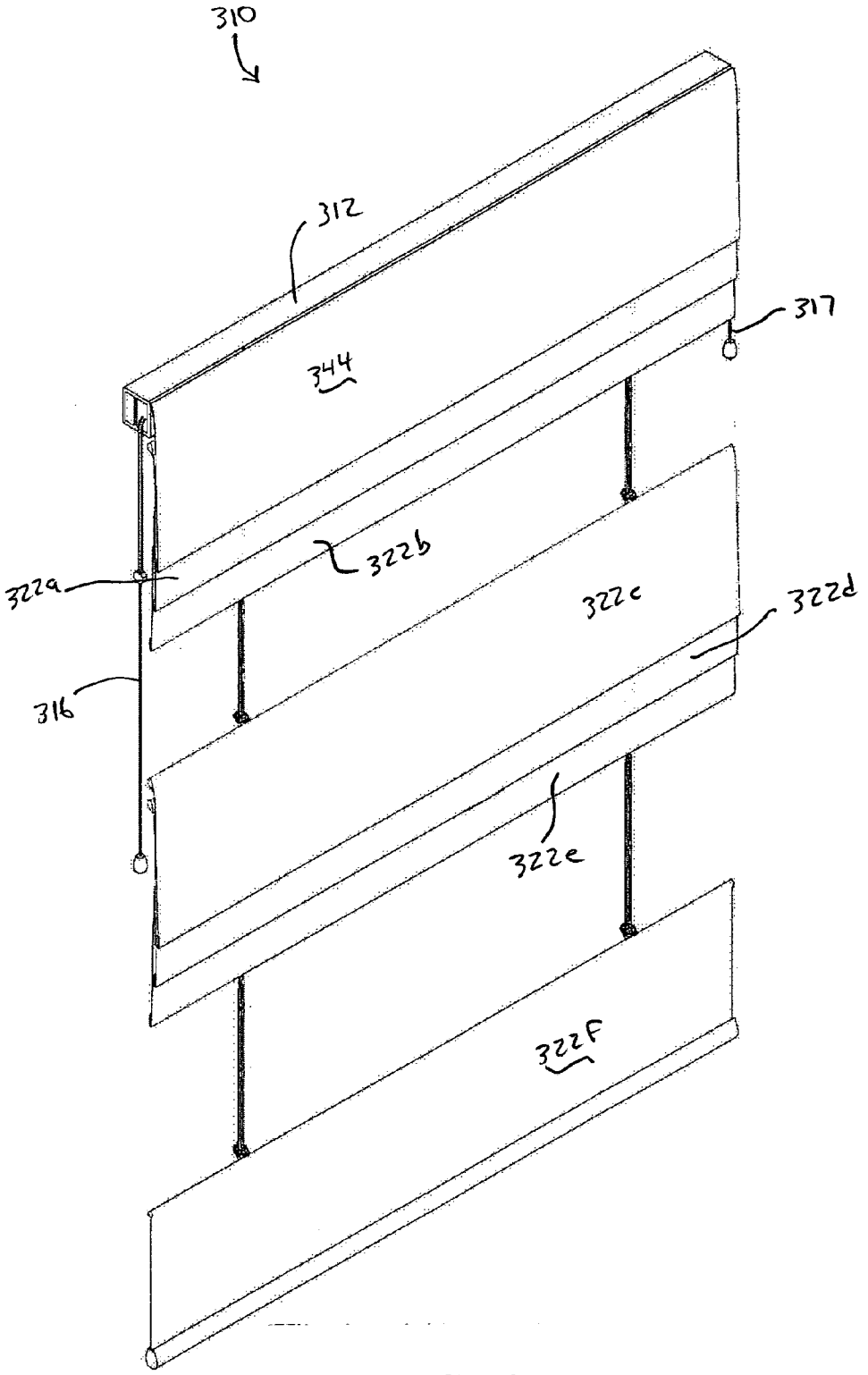


FIG. 19

WINDOW COVERING WITH SHADE PANELS HAVING FREE LOWER EDGES

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to the field of window coverings, and more particularly to window coverings including a plurality of panels.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Decorative window coverings are popular items for providing privacy and blocking light. These window coverings take on various forms, such as Roman shades, Venetian blinds, vertical blinds, honeycomb shades, and the like. Several of these window coverings include a panel or plurality of panels that cover an opening, which are connected to an adjustment mechanism with one or more control members.

[0003] For example, one popular type of window covering is known as a Roman shade. This type of shade consists of a fabric material attached along its top edge to a head rail and is gathered at spaced intervals to provide a series of soft folds across the face of the fabric. Consequently, the typical Roman shade has a cascaded or softly pleated appearance. Such Roman shades are constructed so that when they are raised, they gather from the bottom in generally horizontal folds or pleats until the entire shade resides near the top of the window covering. In some versions, the top of the window covering may also be lowered. The shades are operated by pulling on control members, which are attached to the shade. The control members are usually secured to a bottom portion of the panel with adhesive, ultrasonic welding, sewing, tying or the like.

[0004] An alternative to the conventional Roman shade is disclosed in co-pending application Ser. No. 10/427,829 filed on May 1, 2003, which is incorporated herein by reference. Unlike the standard Roman shade, the Roman style shade disclosed in co-pending application Ser. No. 10/427,829 enables the opening of the individual rows to create gaps in the face of the shade without requiring the entire shade to be raised.

[0005] Another common type of window covering is a Venetian blind. Venetian blinds are typically constructed of a plurality of slats that are supported by a pair of ladders, which are controlled by an adjustment mechanism in a head rail. The ladder typically includes a pair of parallel cords suspended from the head rail and connected to a bottom rail. A number of rungs span across the parallel cords and support the slats. An alternative to the conventional Venetian blind is disclosed in co-pending application Ser. No. 10/413,200, which was issued as U.S. Pat. No. 6,792,996 and is incorporated herein by reference, which utilizes non-ladder control members and has a configuration that allows the slats to conceal the control members and holes for the control cords when the slats are closed.

[0006] While Roman shades and Venetian blinds are aesthetically pleasing, a window covering with a linear or generally flat appearance that maintains its general appearance whether opened, closed or partially opened may be desired in some instances. The present invention provides a suitable window covering.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] The present invention provides a novel and improved window covering. The window covering includes a head rail that has a control mechanism, such as a cord lock, adapted to control raising and lowering of an opening member suspended from the head rail. A securement member, such as a cord, is also suspended from the head rail. A plurality of panels is secured with the securement member about an upper longitudinal portion of the panels. Each of the panels is secured with the securement member at substantially evenly spaced intervals. The panels are freely suspended such that a lower longitudinal portion of the panels is not connected with the securement member or the opening member so the panels hang vertically from the securement member. A weighted edge member may be included about the lower longitudinal portion of the panels.

[0008] Preferably, the plurality of panels are in an overlapping relationship with one another. In particular, the lower longitudinal portion of a panel overlaps with the upper longitudinal portion of the lower adjacent panel. As such, when the window covering is closed, there are no gaps between panels that would permit light to enter a room. Similarly, the opening and securement members are concealed by the overlapping panels when the window covering is in the closed position.

[0009] The lowermost panel of the plurality of panels is also secured with the opening member about an upper longitudinal portion. The other panels position between the headrail and the lowermost panel are unconnected to the opening member. In other words, adjustment of the opening member only directly moves the lowermost panel. In some embodiments, additional opening members may be included and secured to a different panel. One example of such a configuration is discussed in further detail below.

[0010] To open the window covering, a user pulls or retracts the opening member, which draws upwards the lowermost panel while the remaining panels remain in a resting position. The lowermost panel slides upwards substantially parallel to and behind an upper adjacent panel. By continuing to retract the opening member, the upper longitudinal portion of the lowermost panel contacts the upper longitudinal portion of the upper adjacent panel. The lowermost panel is therefore no longer able to move in an upwards direction independent of the upper adjacent panel. As such, the lowermost panel and the upper adjacent panel are moved together behind the next upper adjacent panel. Each of the panels are rearwardly stacked in this manner as the opening member is retracted.

[0011] By rearwardly stacking the panels in this manner, the vertical and straight profile of individual panels is maintained as the window covering is opened. Accordingly, the aesthetic appearance of the window covering is largely kept constant whether the window covering is in a fully closed, partially opened or fully opened position.

[0012] An alternative embodiment of the present invention affords the capability of lowering the various panels as a different manner of opening the window covering. The window covering, as in the previous embodiment, includes rows of panels. A valance panel is secured directly to the head rail. A plurality of additional panels are suspended by control members from the head rail. The upper longitudinal portion of an uppermost panel is secured with a first opening member such that the uppermost panel is operatively connected to the head rail. A securement member is also secured with the upper longitudinal portion of the uppermost panel,

and is also secured with the upper longitudinal portion of the other panels, except the valance panel. The securement member is not connected with the head rail.

[0013] A lowermost panel of the plurality of panels is also secured with a second opening member about an upper longitudinal portion thereof. The second opening member is suspended from the head rail and is controllably adjusted with a control mechanism. The other panels are not secured with the second opening member.

[0014] To open the window covering, a user may pull or retract the second opening member, which draws upwards the lowermost panel while the remaining panels remain in a resting position in the manner previously described. The window covering may also be opened by lowering the uppermost panel by lowering the first opening member. In either event, the position lowermost panel relative to the upper adjacent panels is adjusted such that the lowermost panel is positioned behind and substantially parallel with the upper adjacent panel.

[0015] For example, when raising the second opening member, the lowermost panel slides upwards substantially parallel to and behind an upper adjacent panel. By continuing to retract the opening member, the upper longitudinal portion of the lowermost panel contacts the upper longitudinal portion of the upper adjacent panel. The lowermost panel is therefore no longer able to move upwardly independent of the upper adjacent panel. As such, the lowermost panel and the upper adjacent panel are moved together behind the next upper adjacent panel. The panels are rearwardly stacked in this manner as the opening member is retracted. By contrast, as the first opening member is lowered, the plurality of panels above the lowermost panel slide down such that the upper adjacent panel to the lowermost panel slides in front of and substantially parallel to the lowermost panel. Because the panels overlap, subsequent panels are stacked in front of previously stacked panels. The first and second opening members may operated in any combination. For example, if the second opening member lowers all the panels into a stack, the first opening member can raise the entire stack.

[0016] One preferred feature of the window covering of the present invention includes the manner in which the panels are secured with the securement member and opening member. Each of the panels may be secured with the securement member and opening member with fastener modules. In one embodiment, the fastener module includes a clip member securable to the upper longitudinal portion of a panel and a buckle member comprising a housing and an engagement member, the buckle member suitable for detachable and selectable securement to the securement member. In a preferred embodiment, the securement member is a cord that includes a plurality of spaced loops, whereby the upper longitudinal portion of each panel is operatively secured with a loop. A particularly suitable fastener module is described in co-pending application Ser. No. 10/970,428 entitled Fastener Module for a Window Covering and Method, which was filed on Oct. 21, 2004, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0017] In the drawings:

[0018] **FIG. 1** is a perspective front view of a preferred embodiment of the window covering of the present invention in a closed position;

[0019] **FIG. 2** is an elevated right side view of the window covering of **FIG. 1**;

[0020] **FIG. 3** is an elevated left side view of the window covering of **FIG. 1**;

[0021] **FIG. 4** is a perspective front view of the window covering of **FIG. 1** in a partially open position;

[0022] **FIG. 5** is a perspective front view of the window covering of **FIG. 1** in a fully open position;

[0023] **FIG. 6** is an elevated right side view of the window covering of **FIG. 5** in a fully open position;

[0024] **FIG. 7** is an elevated left side view of the window covering of **FIG. 5** in a fully open position;

[0025] **FIG. 8** is an enlarged perspective view of a fastener module suitable for use with the present invention;

[0026] **FIG. 9** is a front perspective view of an alternate embodiment of a window covering according to the present invention;

[0027] **FIG. 10** is a rear perspective view of the window covering of **FIG. 9**;

[0028] **FIG. 11** is an enlarged perspective view of a portion of **FIG. 10**;

[0029] **FIG. 12** is a rear perspective view of the window covering of **FIG. 9** in a partially open position;

[0030] **FIG. 13** is a front perspective view of the window covering of **FIG. 9** in a fully open position;

[0031] **FIG. 14** is a rear perspective view of the window covering of **FIG. 13** in an alternative partially open position;

[0032] **FIG. 15** is a front perspective view of another embodiment of a window covering in the closed position according to the present invention;

[0033] **FIG. 16** is a front perspective view of the embodiment of **FIG. 15** with the window covering in a partially open position;

[0034] **FIG. 17** is a rear perspective view of the embodiment of **FIG. 15** with the window covering in a partially open position;

[0035] **FIG. 18** is an enlarged portion of **FIG. 17**; and

[0036] **FIG. 19** is a front perspective view of yet another embodiment of a window covering in a partially open position according to the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0037] The invention disclosed herein is, of course, susceptible of embodiment in many different forms. Shown in the drawings and described hereinbelow in detail are preferred embodiments of the invention. It is understood, however, that the present disclosure is an exemplification of the principles of the invention and does not limit the

invention to the illustrated embodiments. For ease of description, the window covering embodying the present invention is described in its usual assembled position as shown in the accompanying drawings, and terms such as upper, lower, horizontal, longitudinal, etc., may be used herein with reference to this usual position.

[0038] A window covering according to one embodiment of the present invention is described with reference to **FIGS. 1-3**. Window covering **10** includes a head rail **12** including a control mechanism, such as cord lock **14**, adapted to control raising and lowering of an opening member, such as opening cord **16**, which is suspended from the head rail **12**. A securement member, such as securement cord **18**, is also suspended from the head rail **12**. The securement cord **18** and the opening cord **16** pass down the back of the window covering **10**. Securement cord **18** preferably includes a plurality of spaced loops **20**. A plurality of intermediate panels **22***a-e* and a lowermost panel **22***f* are secured with the securement cord **18** about an upper longitudinal portion **24** of the panels **22** such as at some of the spaced loops **20**. The panels may be made of a woven or nonwoven fabric, paper, laminate, film, or the like. The panels are freely suspended from the securement member **18** such that a lower longitudinal portion **26***a-f* of the panels **22***a-f* are not connected with the securement member **18** or the opening member **16**. The lowermost panel **22***f* of the plurality of panels is secured with the opening member **16** about an upper longitudinal portion **30** of the lowermost panel **22***f*. A bottom rail **28** may also be secured with lowermost panel **22***f*. The intermediate panels **22***a-e* are not secured with the opening member. A valance panel **44** is also provided. This valance panel **44**, which has the same basic construction as panels **22** and includes a stiffening strip **45**, is clipped directly to the head rail **12**, and is not otherwise connected with the panels **22***a-f*.

[0039] The panels **22***a-f* overlap one another such that no light is able to pass through the window covering **10** when in the closed position. Also, the overlapped panels **22***a-f* conceal the opening member **16** and the securement member **18** extending behind the panels when viewed from the face of the window covering **10**.

[0040] Each of the intermediate panels **22***a-e* also preferably includes a weighted edge member, such as stiffening strips **32***a-e*, positioned about the lower longitudinal portion **26***a-e*. Bottom rail **28** acts as the weighted edge member for the lowermost panel **22***f*. The stiffening strips **32***a-e* and bottom rail **28** are suitable for exerting gravitational force on the panels **22***a-f* such that any bias in the material, such as from weaving or coatings, is overcome and the panels **22***a-f* hang straight down. This weighted edge members may also take the form of a rod, rolled material, clips, or the like.

[0041] To open the window covering **10**, a user pulls or retracts the opening member **16**, which draws upwards the lowermost panel **28** while the remaining panels remain in a resting position. Referring to **FIG. 4**, the lowermost panel **22***f* slides upwards substantially parallel to and behind an upper adjacent panel **22***e*. By continuing to retract the opening member **16**, the upper longitudinal portion **30** of the lowermost panel **22***f* contacts the upper longitudinal portion **38** of the upper adjacent panel **22***e*. The lowermost panel **22***f* is therefore no longer able to move upwardly relative to the upper adjacent panel **22***e*. As the opening member **16** is retracted further, the lowermost panel **22***f* and the upper adjacent panel **22***e* are moved together behind the next upper adjacent panel **22***d*. The panels **22***a-f* are rearwardly stacked in this manner as the opening member **16** is retracted until the panels **22***a-f* are rearwardly stacked as shown in **FIG. 5**.

[0042] As is shown, the rearward stacking of the panels provides a window covering **10** wherein the vertical and straight profile of the panels **22***a-f* is maintained as the window covering **10** is opened. Accordingly, the aesthetic appearance of the window covering **10** is largely kept consistent whether the window covering is in a fully closed (**FIG. 1**), partially opened (**FIG. 4**) or fully opened position (**FIG. 5**).

[0043] Referring to **FIGS. 6 and 7**, as the panels **22** are stacked, the securement cord **18** is folded or gathered behind the face **42** of the window covering **10**. The opening member **16** holds the panels **22***a-f* in position by locking the control mechanism, such as cord lock **14**. Since the overlapping relationship of the panels **22***a-f* is maintained in the closed, partially opened, and fully opened positions, the securement cord **18** is not seen from the front of the window covering.

[0044] Panels **22***a-f* are preferably detachably secured with the securement cord **18** with fastener modules **46**. An exemplar of a suitable fastener module **46** is shown in **FIG. 8**. Fastener module **46** includes a buckle **48** and a clip **50**, and is preferably made of a resilient material, such as a thermoplastic resin, lightweight metal, or the like. The clip **50** is securable to an anchor member, such as dowel **52** associated with the panel (**FIG. 6**) by way of frictional engagement or by a mechanical force applied by the clip **50**, such as exerted by the resilient properties of the material making up the clip **50**. Buckle **48** includes a housing **54** and an engagement member, such as transverse rod **56**. Transverse rod **56** includes a first end, which is secured to or integral with the housing **54**, and a second end **62**, which is engageable with tab member **64** by urging second end **62** through hole **66**. Where detachable fastener modules are used, it is also possible to have one or more panels entirely detachable.

[0045] The securement cord **18** is engaged with fastener module **46** by way of transverse rod **56**, which is passed through a loop in the panel, such a loop **20** (**FIG. 2**) defined by securement cord **18**. Opening cord **16** is passed through housing **54** of fastener module **46**, but is not secured thereto. As such, as opening cord **16** is retracted or extended, is passes through housing **54** and moves freely relative thereto such that the fastener module **46** acts as a cord guide for opening cord **16**.

[0046] An alternative embodiment of the present invention is described with reference to **FIGS. 9-14**. Window covering **110** includes a head rail **112**, a valance panel **144**, and plurality of panels **122***a-f*. The valance panel **144** and the other panels **122***a-f* overlap one another such that a gap free face is provided. The appearance of the alternative embodiment of the window covering **110** in the closed position as shown in **FIG. 9** is substantially the same as the previous embodiment. However, the operation of window covering **110** is somewhat different in that rather than only opening the window covering **110** by raising panels, the window covering **110** may be opened by lowering panels as well.

[0047] Referring to **FIGS. 9-11**, additional features of window covering **110** are shown. The plurality of panels

122*a-f* are suspended by control members from the head rail **112**. The uppermost panel **122***a*, which defines an uppermost portion **130***a* is secured with a first opening member, such as first opening cord **117**, which is adjustably controlled by cord lock **119** (**FIG. 10**). A securement member, such as securement cord **118** secures the uppermost portion **130***a* of the uppermost panel **122***a* with the uppermost portions **130***b-f* of the other panels **122***b-f*.

[**0048**] A lowermost panel **122***f* of the plurality of panels is also secured with a second opening member, such as second opening cord **116**, about an upper longitudinal portion thereof **130***f*. The second opening cord **116** is suspended from the head rail **112** and is controllably adjusted with a control mechanism, such as a cord lock **114**. The other panels **122***a-e* are not secured with the second opening cord **116**.

[**0049**] Opening window covering **110** may be accomplished in a number of different manners. One way is to pull on second opening cord **116** to raise lowermost panel **122***f*, such as described in the embodiment of **FIGS. 1-7**. Alternatively, window covering **110** may also be opened by lowering the uppermost panel **122***a* by lowering the first opening cord **117**. Referring to **FIG. 12**, as the first opening cord **117** is lowered, intermediate panels **122***a-e* are lowered relative to the lowermost panel **122***f* such that the panels, such as panels **122***e* and **122***d* are stacked with the lowermost panel **122***f*. When the first opening cord **117** is fully lowered, the panels **122***a-f* are stacked at the bottom of window covering **110** such as shown in **FIG. 13**.

[**0050**] The first opening cord **117** and the second opening cord **116** may also be operated in conjunction with one another. For example, as is shown in **FIG. 14**, the first opening cord **117** has been partially lowered such that panel **122***e* is stacked with the lowermost panel **122***f*. Second opening cord **116** has also been raised such that lowermost panel **122***f* and panel **122***e* are stacked with panels **122***c* and **122***d*.

[**0051**] Yet another embodiment of the present invention is shown with reference to **FIGS. 15-18**. Similar to the previous embodiment, as shown in **FIG. 15**, the window covering **210** includes a head rail **212**, an opening member **216**, a valance panel **244** and a plurality of panels **222***a-f*. However, referring to **FIGS. 16 and 17**, the panels are grouped into two sets. In particular, panels **222***a*, **222***c*, and **222***e* are one set and panels **222***b*, **222***d*, and **222***f* are the other set. This variation provided the optional feature of sliding a first set of panels, such as panels **222***b*, **222***d*, and **222***f* relative to a second set, such as panels **222***a*, **222***c*, and **222***e*. A first opening cord **216** is secured to the upper longitudinal portions of panels **222***a*, **222***c*, and **222***e*. Panels **222***b*, **222***d*, and **222***f* are secured to securement cord **218**. Panel **222***f* is also secured to a second opening cord **217**.

[**0052**] By pulling on first opening cord **216**, panels **222***a*, **222***c*, and **222***e* are raised and slid behind valance panel **244** and panels **222***b* and **222***d*, respectively. Retracting second opening cord **217** causes lowermost panel **222***f* to raise and open the entire window covering **210** such as discussed above.

[**0053**] Yet another variation of the present invention is shown in **FIG. 19**. In this embodiment, the panels **322***a-e* of window covering **310** are grouped into two groups. A first group consists of panels **322***a* and **322***b* and the second group consists of panels **322***c-e*. The upper longitudinal portion of panels **322***e* and **322***b* are secured with a first opening cord **316**. Panels **322***a*, **322***c* and **322***d* are secured with a securement cord **318**. Lowermost panel **322***f* is secured to a second opening cord **317**. In this embodiment, as first opening cord **316** is raised, panels **322***e* and **322***b* are raised and slid behind panels **322***d* and **322***a*, respectively. As the first opening cord **316** is further raised, panels **322***a* and **322***b* are stacked behind valance panel **344**, and panels **322***d* and **322***e* are stacked with panel **322***c*. Each of panels **322***a-f* may be raised by raising the second opening cord **317**.

[**0054**] Alternatively, the upper longitudinal portion of the panel **322***b* can be connected to a first opening cord while the upper longitudinal portion of the panel **322***e* is connected to a second opening cord, and the upper longitudinal portion of the lowermost panel **322***f* is connected to a third opening cord. The panel **322***b* can be thereby opened independently from the panels **322***e* and **322***d*.

[**0055**] In the embodiments described, the panels are described as being uniform in size. However, it is also possible that the panels are of incrementally narrower widths such that the panels when stacked complete conceal the stacked panels.

[**0056**] The foregoing description and the accompanying drawings are illustrative of the present invention. Still other variations and arrangements of parts are possible without departing from the spirit and scope of this invention.

We claim:

1. A window covering comprising:

a head rail including at least one control mechanism adapted to control vertical adjustment of at least one opening member;

a securement member;

a plurality of intermediate panels and a lowermost panel, each of the panels being secured with the securement member about an upper longitudinal portion of the panels, the panels being secured with the securement member at spaced intervals along the securement member, the panels freely suspended from the securement member such that a lower longitudinal portion of each of the panels is disconnected from the securement member; and

the lowermost panel secured with the opening member about an upper longitudinal portion.

2. The window covering of claim 1, wherein the plurality of panels are in an overlapping relationship.

3. The window covering of claim 1, wherein the panels are detachably secured with the securement member with fastener modules.

4. The window covering of claim 1, further including a second opening member, the second opening member being secured to a upper longitudinal portion of an upper panel and adapted to lower the upper panel relative to the head rail.

5. The window covering of claim 1, wherein the lower longitudinal portion of the panels includes a weighted edge member.

6. The window covering of claim 1, wherein the securement member is a securement cord and the opening member is an opening cord.

7. The window covering of claim 6, wherein the securement cord comprises a plurality of spaced loops, whereby the upper longitudinal portion of each panel is operatively secured with a loop.

8. The window covering of claim 1, wherein adjustment of the opening member causes the plurality of panels to be rearwardly stacked.

9. A window covering comprising:

a securement member;

at least one opening member adapted to be retracted and extended;

a plurality of panels, each panel having an upper longitudinal portion secured with the securement member at spaced intervals along the securement member and having a lower longitudinal portion detached from the securement member; and

a lowermost panel of the plurality of panels secured with the opening member about an upper longitudinal portion.

10. The window covering of claim 9, wherein the lower longitudinal portion of at least one panel overlaps the upper longitudinal portion of a lower adjacent panel.

11. The window covering of claim 10, wherein the panels are detachably secured with the securement member with fastener modules.

12. The window covering of claim 9, further including a second opening member, the second opening member being secured to an upper longitudinal portion of an upper panel and adapted to lower the upper panel relative to the lowermost panel.

13. The window covering of claim 9, wherein the lower longitudinal portion of the panels includes a weighted edge member.

14. The window covering of claim 9, wherein the securement member is a cord comprising a plurality of spaced loops, whereby the upper longitudinal portion of each panel is operatively secured with a loop.

15. The window covering of claim 9, wherein adjustment of the opening member causes the plurality of panels to be rearwardly stacked.

16. A window covering having an open position and a closed position, the window covering comprising:

a securement cord;

at least one opening cord adapted to be retracted and extended;

a plurality of freely suspended panels, at least one of the panels having an upper longitudinal portion secured with the securement cord and having lower longitudinal portion detached from the securement cord, whereby the lower longitudinal portion overlaps the upper longitudinal portion of an adjacent lower panel;

a lowermost panel of the plurality of panels secured with the opening cord about an upper longitudinal portion; and

the opening cord adapted to be adjusted to move the window covering from the closed position to the open position and adjustment of the opening cord rearwardly stacks the plurality of panels.

17. The window covering of claim 16, wherein the panels are detachably secured with the securement cord with fastener modules.

18. The window covering of claim 16, wherein the lower longitudinal portion of the panels includes weighted edge member.

19. The window covering of claim 16, further including a second opening cord secured to an upper longitudinal portion of an uppermost panel, the second opening cord adapted to be adjusted to move the window covering from the closed position to the open position.

20. A method for opening a window covering comprising an opening member, a securement member, a plurality of intermediate panels and a lowermost panel, each of the panels being secured with the securement member about an upper longitudinal portion of the panels, the panels being secured with the securement member at spaced intervals along the securement member, the panels freely suspended from the securement member such that a lower longitudinal portion of each of the panels is disconnected from the securement member, and the lowermost panel secured with the opening member about an upper longitudinal portion, the method comprising:

retracting the opening member and causing the lowermost panel to slide behind a first upper adjacent panel; and

continuing to retract the opening member such that the lowermost panel and the first upper adjacent panel slide behind and are stacked with a second upper adjacent panel.

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