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END CAP FOR VENETIAN BLIND SLATS

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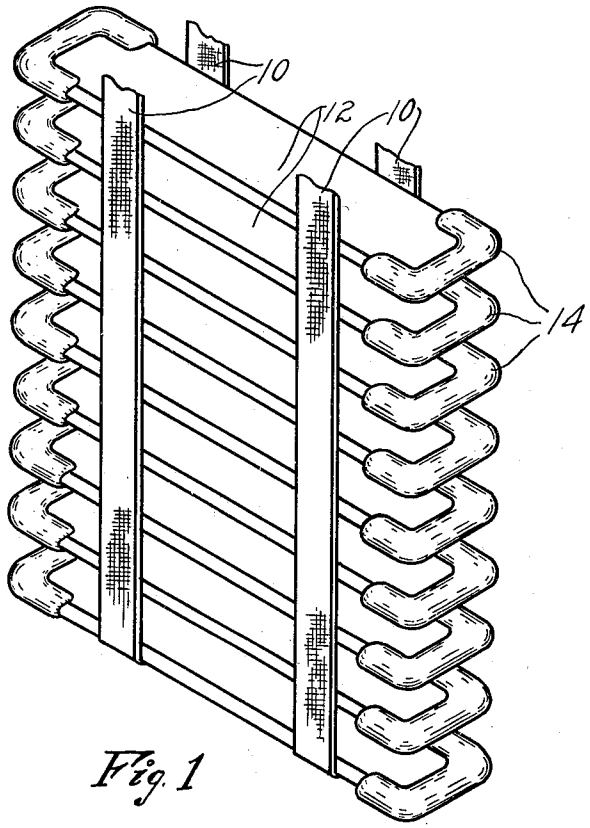


Fig. 1

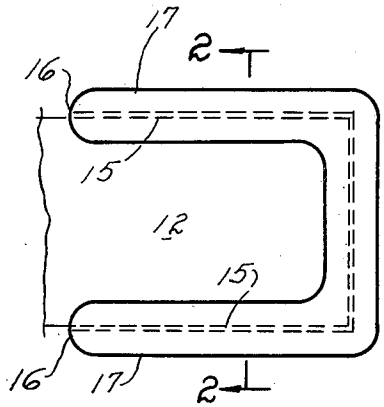


Fig. 3

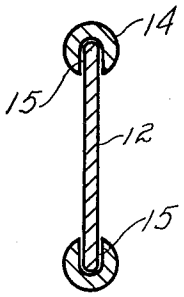


Fig. 2

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END CAP FOR VENETIAN BLIND SLATS

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5 Claims. (Cl. 160—178)

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This invention relates to an end cap for Venetian blind slats, for the purpose of enhancing the decorative appearance of the blinds as well as to silence the rattling of the slats in the Venetian blind assembly.

An object of this invention is to provide an attachment for standard Venetian blinds in the nature of an anti-rattling device that is easily attached to the ends of the slats in Venetian blinds already installed.

A second object of this invention is to provide a plastic cap attachment for the ends of the slats utilized in Venetian blinds, the caps being so designed as to further enhance the architectural and decorative characteristics of the said Venetian blinds.

A third object of this invention is to provide a Venetian blind attachment that will permit the adjustment of the length of each individual Venetian blind slat at the time of installation by cutting off the ends of the individual Venetian blind slats but obviating the necessity for painting the freshly cut ends.

Other objects of this invention will appear in the following description and appended claims, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification wherein like reference characters designate corresponding parts in the several views.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 is an isometric view of a portion of a Venetian blind, the individual slats of which are provided with the resilient caps of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view taken on the line 2—2, Fig. 3, in the direction of the arrows;

Fig. 3 is a schematic plan view of one of the end caps shown on the end of a blind slat in Fig. 1.

Before explaining in detail the present invention it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and arrangement of parts illustrated in the accompanying drawings, since the invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced or carried out in various ways. Also it is to be understood that the phraseology or terminology employed herein is for the purpose of description and not of limitation.

Referring to Fig. 1, a conventional type of Venetian blind is shown. The ladder straps 10 are connected with a conventional header (not shown) and support the individual slats 12 in their assembled position as shown.

It is understood that Fig. 1 is a partial view

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of a total Venetian blind assembly. The operating mechanism, such as the raising and lowering ropes and mechanisms are usually a part of the header which is not shown. Since such mechanisms and headers are well known in the art, they are here omitted in the interest of simplifying the present disclosure. On the end of each of the slats 12 shown in Fig. 1 is a resilient cap 14. An enlarged plan of the cap 14 is shown in Fig. 3.

The cap 14 has a body which is essentially U-shaped in top plan view having rounded end portions 16 at each end of the leg portions 17. An internal groove 15 extends along the inside edges of the legs 17 and around the inner side of the U-shaped body and is best shown in the cross-sectional view, Fig. 2.

Although the leg portions 17 of U-shaped cap 14 are shown as extending only a small portion of the length of the individual slat 12, it will be understood that when desired the legs 17 of the cap may extend the entire length of the Venetian blind slat. The groove 15 is so dimensioned that the end and side edge portions of the slat 12 are received in the groove 15 and the flanges on the leg portions 17 will overlie a predetermined portion of the side edge portion of the slat to which it is attached.

The cap 14 is preferably fabricated out of a suitable resilient material, as for example a polyvinyl elastomeric material having such degree of softness at room temperature that when the individual slats are moved, as by air currents, there will be no rattling or other noise since it will be muffled by the caps 14.

To further enhance the architectural or decorative value of these caps, they may be made of any color or hue such as is desired to match or harmonize with the colors of the surroundings in which the blinds are to be installed.

The caps 14 are resilient and are molded to a size preferably slightly smaller than the ends of the slats 12 to which they are to be attached. This will insure a gripping engagement of the caps 14 with the ends of the slats while permitting a ready removal or installation of the caps.

When the blind is in the raised position, the slats 12 lie closely adjacent each other and the caps 14 on each slat in this position contact the faces of the corresponding caps on the next adjacent slats. This provides a resilient buffer or stop between the ends of the slats which eliminates contact between the slats and thus eliminates the source of much noise otherwise due to rattling of the slats.

An ornamental appearance may be imparted to the entire lateral edge of each slat in the blind by extending the length of the legs 17 along the entire lateral edge or any desired portion thereof.

I claim:

1. A resilient plastic end cap for easy attachment to or removal from the ends of individual slats of a Venetian blind, and comprising a substantially U-shaped resilient plastic body having a groove for receiving the end and a selected portion of the lateral edges of a Venetian blind slat.

2. A resilient cap for attachment to the end of a slat forming a part of a Venetian blind structure and comprising an internally grooved substantially U-shaped body portion adapted to receive the end of the slat and overlie said end and a selected portion of the adjacent lateral edges thereof.

3. A colored resilient plastic cap having a generally U-shaped body portion having an internal groove conforming in shape and size to the shape and size of the end portion of a Venetian blind slat.

4. A Venetian blind having a plurality of separate vertically spaced laterally disposed movable slats, an anti-rattling buffer on each slat and comprising a resilient cap having a substantial U-shaped body portion engaging and overlying the end portion and a selected portion of the lateral sides adjacent said end portion of each of said slats.

5. A Venetian blind having a plurality of separate vertically spaced laterally disposed movable slats, an anti-rattling buffer on each slat and comprising a resilient cap having a substantially U-shaped body portion having an open internal groove extending around said body portion for engaging and overlying the end portion and a selected portion of the lateral sides adjacent said end portion of each of said slats.

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