May 23, 1950 A. E. FRIDOLPH 2,508,506

DECORATIVE FURNITURE PANEL CONSTRUCTION

Filed Dec. 9, 1946 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

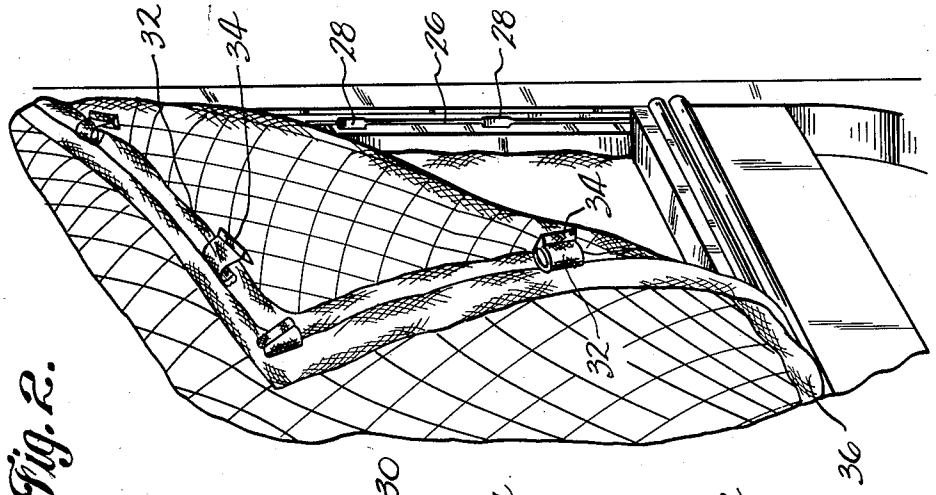

Fig. 2.

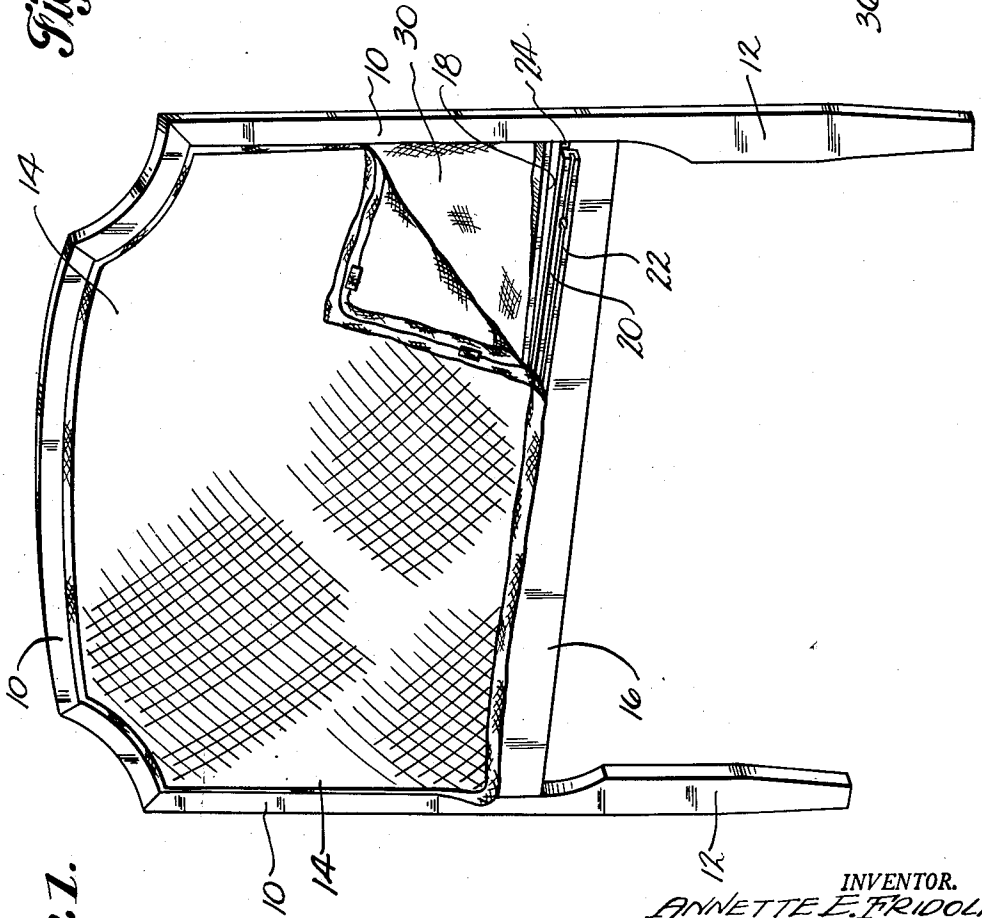

Fig. 1.

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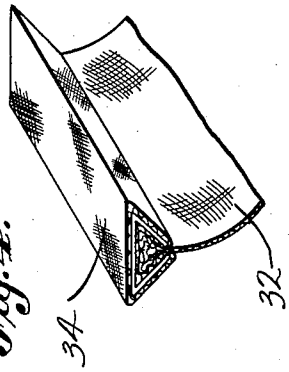

Fig. 4.

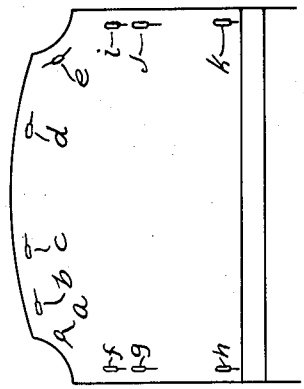

Fig. 6.

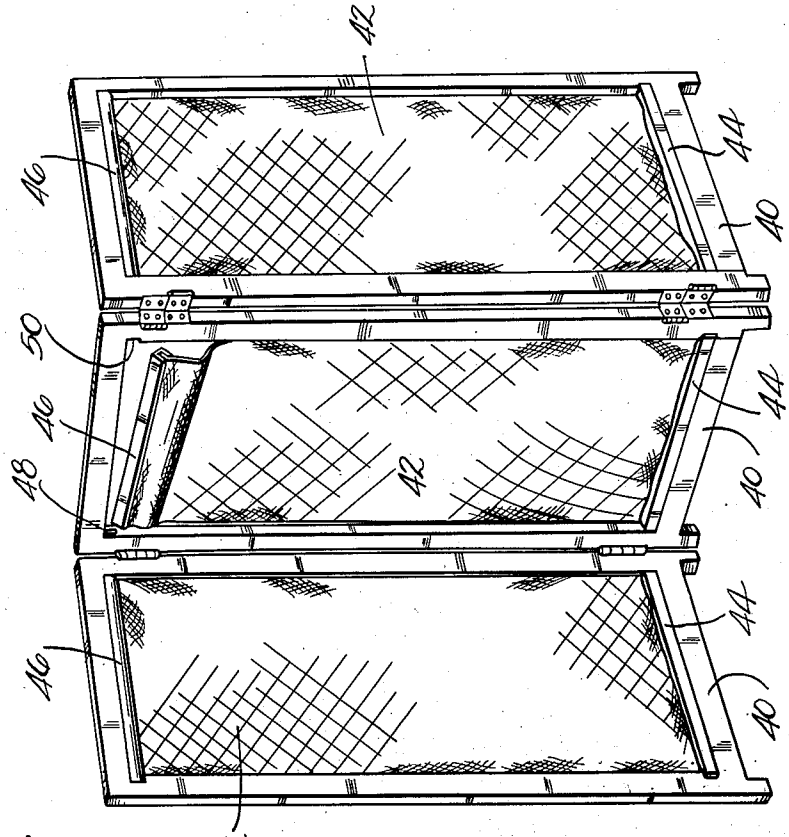

Fig. 3.

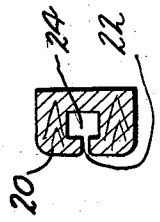

Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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DECORATIVE FURNITURE PANEL CONSTRUCTION

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2 Claims. (Cl. 160—378)

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This invention relates to a decorative furniture panel construction and more particularly to panels such as are used to upholster furniture such as bed head-boards, chair backs, seat pads, folding screens, etc. Where panels or pads have been applied to articles of furniture heretofore, it is customary to secure them permanently by tacking to the wood frame of the article. This makes it extremely difficult to launder or dry clean the decorative fabric material since it must be cleaned in situ by a sponging process or removed and replaced by an expert upholsterer. Consequently, most upholstered furniture is covered in materials of the class which are not easily soiled and which will withstand wear and frequent sponging to the best advantage. This has heretofore excluded from such uses the more delicate fabrics which soil more easily and which will not withstand frequent cleanings but which, in certain types of interior decorating, would be more attractive than the more durable fabrics.

It is an object of the present invention to provide an improved furniture panel construction wherein a decorative fabric panel is fastened to a supporting frame of an article of furniture so as to enable ready attachment and removal of the fabric panel, and so that the fastening means themselves are concealed, and so that the appearance of the fabric panel in place is at least equivalent to that obtained with conventional constructions.

In my Patent No. 2,412,608 granted December 17, 1946, I have disclosed a construction for hanging draperies, curtains and similar articles which involves the use of a diminutive recess formed integrally in and along a decorative trim, casement or other member and having a narrow longitudinal slot opening to a face of the member, together with slider elements attached to the hangings which have individual fabric bands or tapes extending from its margin and rigid slender heads carried at free ends of these bands to slide freely in the recess with the bands passing loosely through its facial slot. The present invention makes use of elements like those disclosed in that application, as fasteners, along with a detachable frame strip to retain some of the elements and in association with a fabric or upholstery panel and a furniture frame to receive the same, all so as to achieve the object above set forth.

In the accompanying drawings which form a part hereof and illustrate preferred embodiments of this invention,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an upholstered head-board illustrating one embodiment of the present invention.

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Figure 2 is a perspective view of part of the head-board assembly illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of a folding screen illustrating another embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 4 is an enlarged perspective view of the head and part of the band of one of the fastener elements employed.

Figure 5 is a cross sectional view of a detachable molding or frame strip employed.

Figure 6 is a diagrammatic view of the head-board of Figure 1, showing a suitable sequence of attachment of some of the fastener elements.

Referring now to Figure 1, there is shown a head-board for a bed having a decorative wooden frame 10 projecting above the leg portions 12. The frame 10 forms the ornamental periphery of a space or panel covered by a decorative upholstery panel 14 which is attached removable to the frame itself at the top and sides thereof. At the bottom a transverse frame member 16 is provided with a longitudinal recess 18 of rectangular cross section, in which is removably retained by friction an elongated molding or frame strip 20. The strip 20 is provided with a narrow longitudinal slot 22 in its face behind which is a wider longitudinal recess 24 within the strip and opening from it through the slot, as more particularly described in my copending application above referred to. Formed in the frame 10 on the inner face thereof along its sides and top is a similar recess slot 26 as seen more clearly in Figure 2. At suitably spaced points along the slot 26 there are provided apertures 28 which are of a size to permit access of fastener heads 34 to the enlarged recess behind the slot-recess 26. The slot 26 may be a continuous one extending around the inside of the frame or it may comprise a series of short recess-slots adjacent the respective apertures 28.

The head-board may have the usual solid panel of wood behind the decorative panel 14 and this may be padded by the application in a conventional way of suitable padding material as indicated at 30. The decorative panel 14 has secured to it at spaced intervals fastener members comprising flexible bands or tapes 32 having on their free ends slender rigid heads 34 much wider than the thickness of the bands, as seen more clearly in Figure 4. The heads 34 are preferably formed by wrapping a small metal channel member with the tape and clamping the opposed edges of the channel together, thus providing a unitary attaching member of which the head may be inserted

through an aperture 28 into and then retained in the recess behind the slot 26 while the flexible band or tape extends loosely through the slot to the fabric panel at the face of the frame. These attaching members are secured to the panel 14 at points corresponding to the location of the apertures 28 in the frame 10. Another series of fastening members are secured to the panel 14 along the bottom edge at intervals and may be inserted into recess 24 and slot 22 of strip 20 either through the end of the recess-slot or through an aperture or enlargement of the slot 22.

The panel 14 may be attached to the head-board in the following manner: Referring now to Figure 6, the fastener element corresponding to aperture "*a*" is inserted therein and the adjacent fasteners are inserted in order at "*b*," "*c*," "*d*," etc., after which the panel is slid slightly to the right and the fastener inserted at "*e*." The panel is then secured down the side in the order "*f*," "*g*," "*h*," "*i*," "*j*" and "*k*" thus completing the securing thereof the top and sides of the frame 10. The molding strip 20 is then removed from its recess 18 and slid endwise over the fasteners along the bottom of the panel 14. The molding strip 20 is then pulled downwardly to tension the panel and inserted in the recess 18 to complete the operation. As will be seen from the drawings, the fasteners are entirely hidden from view after this operation is completed, and the fabric panel which may have a decorative strip 36 along its outer edge presents an appearance no different from one attached by conventional means; yet the fabric panel is readily removable from the head-board for cleaning, laundering or repair and it can be easily restored in place without having to detach fasteners bodily or to perform a constructional operation.

Panels which are provided with a decorative fabric surface on both sides may be mounted with facility and ease by the present invention, and the folding screen shown in Figure 3 is typical of such constructions. In this case, the screen comprises three similar rectangular frames 40 hinged together in the usual fashion and bordering spaces provided with decorative fabric panels 42. Frames 40 have a molding strip 44 at their bottom which may be permanently secured thereto and is provided with a T-shaped recess-slot in its upper face, of the nature indicated at 22, 24 in Fig. 5, for the reception of fastener members of the character above described. A removable molding strip 46 is provided at the top of each panel and contains a similar recess-slot opening in its lower face. The molding strip 46 may be provided with a mortise and tenon at its left-hand end as indicated at 48, and the frame 40 may be notched at 50 to receive the projecting right-hand end of the molding 46.

In the screen illustrated, the fabric panel 42 is provided with fastener members of the character above described at intervals along its top and bottom edges. Those along its lower edge are first inserted in the permanently attached molding strip 44, and then the molding strip 46, having been removed from the frame, is slid over the fastenings at the top of the panel 42. The panel is then stretched taut and the strip

46 is first inserted at the left-hand end and then slid into the notch 50 at the right-hand end.

It will thus be seen that the invention provides an improved concealed fastening system for decorative fabric panels of furniture frames, in which the panel may be readily removed and replaced for laundering purposes or when desired for replacement by a new panel of the same or different material. The fastener members may be permanently attached to the panel, and they are sufficiently small to pass through the usual laundering operations including wringing without damage, for which purpose they are preferably made with a rust-proof metal insert. The use of the removable molding strip along one edge of the panel makes it possible to apply any desired tension to the panel thus giving the taut, neat appearance of hand tacked upholstery.

I claim:

1. A decorative furniture panel construction comprising a frame having marginal portions bordering a panel area, one of said portions including a frame strip having a narrow slot along a face thereof opening into a wider recess therewithin, means in said frame for engaging at least a portion of the strip to retain it against movement in the plane of the frame, said strip being disengageable from said means to permit said strip to be removed from said frame, the other portions of said frame having a similar slot and recess formed therein, a fabric panel to cover said area, flexible bands connected to said panel at intervals around its periphery, each band being secured at one end to the panel and having an enlarged rigid head at a free end, the heads of the bands on a plurality of margins being retained removably in portions of the last-mentioned recess with their bands extended through slot portions thereof, and the heads of the bands on one margin being similarly engageable in the recess of said strip so that the fabric panel may be tensioned over said area by attachment of said strip to said frame.

2. A construction as described in claim 1, said last-mentioned recess and its slot extending substantially continuously in portions of said frame bordering the sides and one end of said area and said strip bordering the other end of said area, the continuously extending slot having at spaced locations enlargements through which the heads of correspondingly placed bands on said panel may pass freely into and from their recess portions.

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