Nov. 1, 1949 W. J. STUBER ET AL 2,486,996

CONVERTIBLE HEAD RAIL BRACKET FOR VENETIAN BLINDS

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Fig. 1.

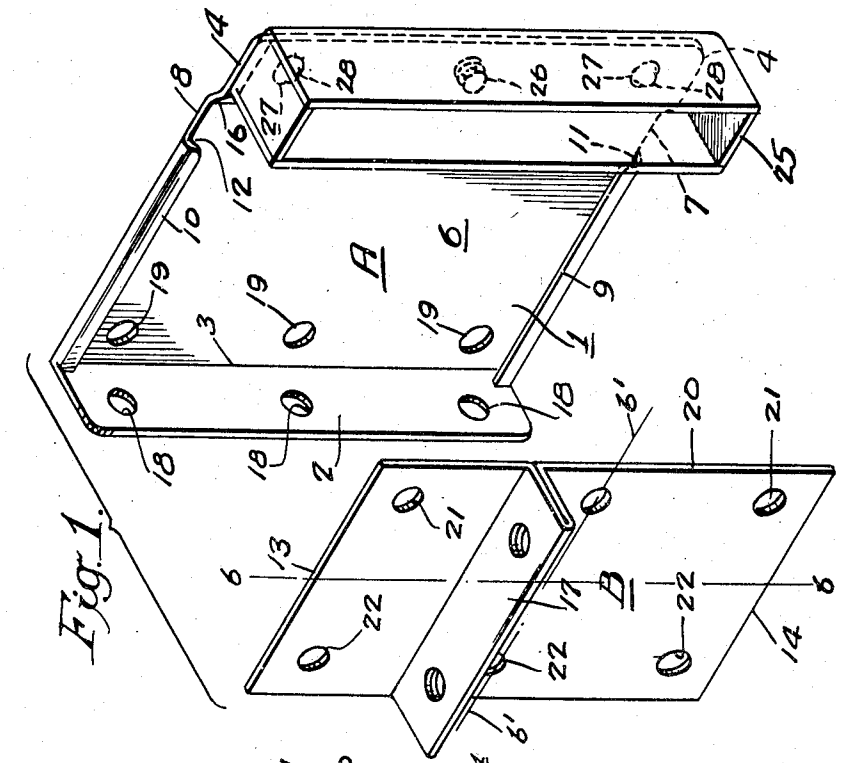

Fig. 2.

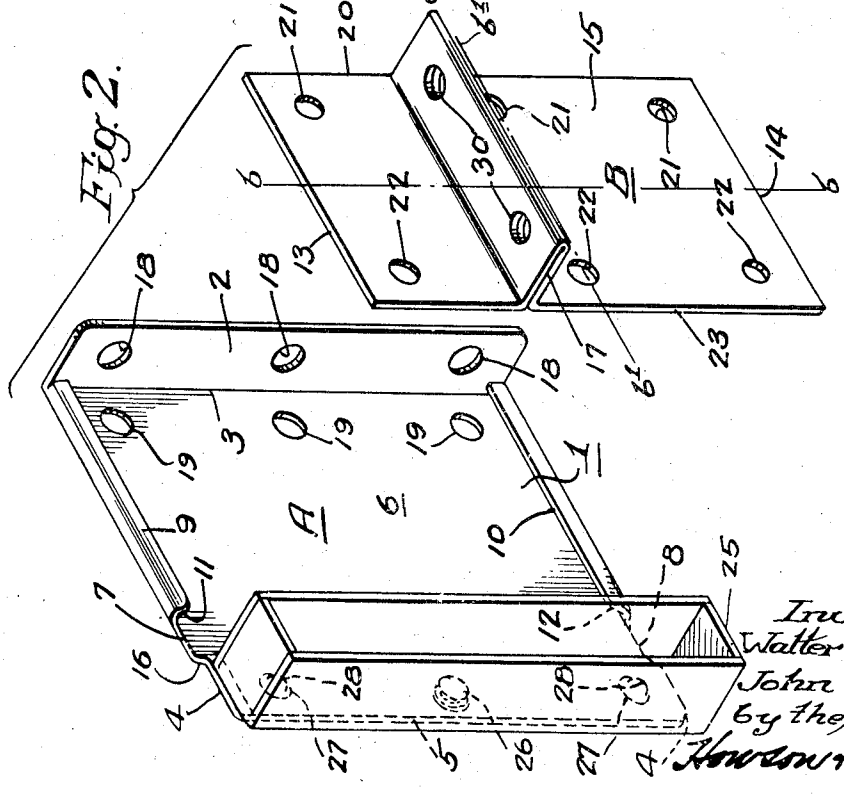

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Fig. 3.

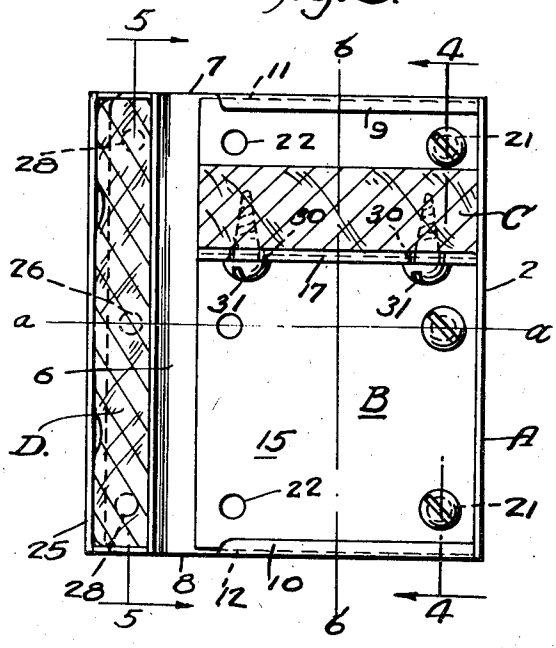


Fig. 4.

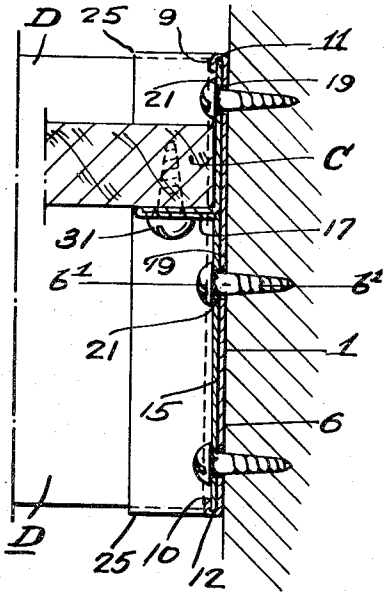
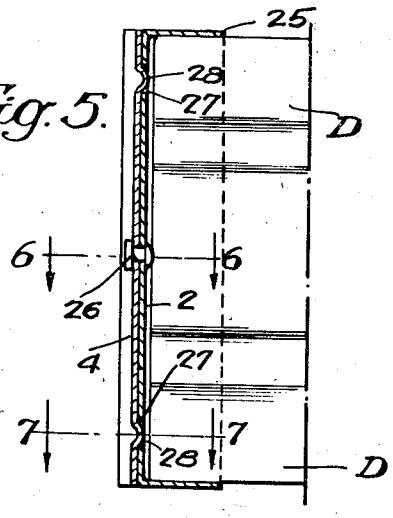


Fig. 5.



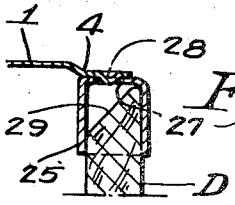


Fig. 7.

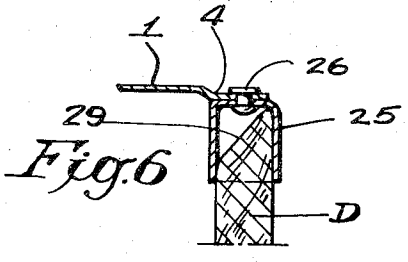


Fig. 6

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Patented Nov. 1, 1949

2,486,996

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,486,996

CONVERTIBLE HEADRAIL BRACKET FOR VENETIAN BLINDS

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Application July 5, 1946, Serial No. 681,524

8 Claims. (Cl. 248—264)

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This invention relates to brackets for supporting or hanging Venetian blinds. Prior to the present invention it was customary to make the brackets as "rights" and "lefts" for supporting the opposite ends respectively of the head rail of a blind.

The above-noted practice entails double initial manufacturing costs, for dies and other tools and fixtures, etc., necessary for producing the different brackets.

The above-noted practice has another disadvantage in that a packer, when assembling the parts of a complete blind for shipping, at times will place two "rights" or two "lefts" in the shipping carton instead of one of each, and this error may not be discovered until a person who is about to install the blind opens the shipping carton.

The object of the present invention is to provide a single reversible bracket which may be used as either a "right" or a "left," which will require but a single set of dies, etc., in manufacture and which will avoid all possibilities of error in assembling the parts of a complete blind for shipping.

In the accompanying drawings:

Fig. 1 is a detached perspective view illustrating the parts of a bracket constructed in accordance with the principles of the present invention as being set up for assembly as a "right" end bracket;

Fig. 2 is a view similar to Fig. 1 with the parts set up for assembly as a "left" end bracket;

Fig. 3 is an inside face view of the bracket assembly for a left end bracket;

Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken on the line 4—4, Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a sectional view taken on the line 5—5, Fig. 3;

Fig. 6 is a sectional view taken on the line 6—6, Fig. 5; and

Fig. 7 is a sectional view taken on the line 7—7, Fig. 5.

The bracket of the present invention, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, comprises a hanger unit A and head rail supporting unit B.

The hanger unit A is symmetrical with respect to its horizontal axis *a—a*, as seen in Fig. 3, the portions above the axis line *a—a* being identical with the parts lying below said line, and vice versa.

The head rail supporting unit B is symmetrical with respect to its vertical axis *b—b*, i. e., the parts lying to the opposite sides of the vertical axis line *b—b*, as seen in Fig. 3, are exact duplicates.

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The hanger unit A comprises a body plate 1 having a right angle flange 2 formed along its rear vertical edge 3, and an offset marginal strip portion 4 formed along and adjacent its front vertical edge 5, said marginal strip 4 being offset inwardly with respect to the plane of the main portion 6 of the body plate 1, at 16, in a plane parallel to said plane of said main portion 6 of the body plate 1.

Along its opposite horizontal edges 7 and 8 respectively, and extending substantially from the rear flange 2 to the offset 16 of the front marginal edge strip 4, the main portion 6 of the body plate 1 is provided with opposite inturned flanges 9 and 10 respectively, which provide supporting grooves 11 and 12 respectively for receiving the upper and lower edges 13 and 14 respectively of the head rail supporting unit B.

The unit B comprises a rectangular plate 15 of predetermined width sufficient to fit between the rear flange 2 of the unit A and the offset 16 of said unit.

Above its horizontal axis *b1—b1*, which coincides with the horizontal axis line *a—a* of the hanger unit A, the plate 15 is bent to form a perpendicular flange 17 upon which the head rail C of a Venetian blind is adapted to rest.

The back flange 2 of the hanger unit A is provided with a plurality of holes 18, 18 to receive screws or nails by which the bracket as a whole may be secured on the face of the trim of a window frame.

The main portion 6 of the body plate 1 of the hanger unit A is provided with a series of holes 19, 19 on a line parallel to and spaced a predetermined distance from the back edge 3 of the plate 1.

At a corresponding distance from the right side edge 20 of the plate 15 of the unit B, said plate is provided with a similar correspondingly spaced series of holes 21, 21. In the same relation to the vertical axis *b—b* of the plate 15 said plate is provided with a second series of correspondingly spaced holes 22, 22 spaced a like distance inwardly from the left hand edge 23 of said plate.

In assembling a bracket for supporting the left end of a head rail of a Venetian blind, the unit A assumes the position of Fig. 2, with the horizontal edge 7 of the plate 1 uppermost. The plate 15 of the head rail supporting unit B is flexed in the direction of its length and the top and bottom edges 13 and 14 thereof are slipped into the grooves or recesses 11 and 12 respectively at the top and bottom edges 7 and 8 of the plate 1.

The plate 15 is moved laterally in the grooves

11 and 12 until the holes 21, 21 along the edge 20 of the plate 15 align with the openings 19, 19 in the plate 1. The left hand bracket is then ready for hanging by screws or nails passed through the aligned holes 19 and 21 of the plates 1 and 15 respectively, if the bracket is to be secured to the inside face of the left hand vertical rail of a window frame, or the screws or nails may be passed through the holes 18, 18 in the rear flange 2 if the bracket is to be secured to the face of the window trim.

To assemble a right hand bracket, the unit A is turned upside down about its horizontal axis *a—a*, bringing the horizontal edge 8 to the top and the horizontal edge 7 to the bottom, as shown in Fig. 1.

The unit B is turned about its vertical axis *b—b* and flexed as before noted, to fit the top edge 13 thereof into the groove 12 in the unit A and the bottom edge 14 into the groove 11. The plate 15 is adjusted laterally in the grooves 11 and 12 until the holes 22, 22 along the left edge 23 of said plate 15 align with the holes 19, 19 in the plate 1 of the unit A. The right hand bracket is then ready for hanging, as hereinbefore noted.

Venetian blinds are usually provided with a valance board which extends across the blind between the right and left supporting brackets and hides the head rail. The valance board usually is held in place at its opposite ends by a pair of fingers which are pivoted at their lower ends to the lower front corners of the brackets.

After the head rail is set in place on the supporting brackets, the fingers are turned down and the valance board placed horizontally on top of said fingers, whereupon the fingers are turned up and carry the valance board into a vertical position in front of the head rail. These fingers are usually held in their turned-up position by spring latches or the like.

In the present instance, the opposite ends of the valance board D are supported by socket levers 25, 25 and in order to make the brackets reversible, the socket levers 25 are pivoted intermediate their opposite ends at 26, on the horizontal axes *a—a* of the bracket units A, A; and adjacent their opposite ends the socket levers 25 are provided with holes 27, 27 which are entered by small protuberances 28, 28 pressed out of the metal of the offset marginal strips 4 of the plates 1. These protuberances normally maintain the socket levers and consequently the valance board D is in a vertical position, but will yield to permit the socket levers 25 to be turned about their pivots 26 at will.

In the present instance, the socket levers 25 are of box-like construction and when swung about their pivots 26 will have one end underlying the flange 17 on which the head rail C is placed, after which the socket levers are swung into their vertical positions in front of the head rail C.

The valance board D is placed in the socket levers after the head rail has been placed on the brackets and the socket levers are swung into their vertical positions.

To slip the ends of the valance board D into the socket levers 25, 25, the board D is flexed longitudinally to draw its ends in and the ends of the board are preferably beveled at their opposite ends, as indicated at 29, 29, to facilitate the slippage of the board ends into the rectangular sockets afforded by the levers 25, 25.

If desired, the ends of the head rail C may be secured to their supporting flanges 17, 17 and for this purpose said flanges may be provided with

holes 30, 30 for screws 31, 31 by which said head rail would be secured to said flanges.

We claim:

1. A single bracket for supporting either end of a Venetian blind, comprising a hanger unit symmetrically contoured at opposite sides respectively of a median horizontal axis thereof and adapted for inversion by rotation about said axis for right-and-left pairing with a second of said brackets, means interchangeably applicable to said unit at either side of said axis for supporting one end of a Venetian blind head rail in vertically spaced relation to said axis, and means for supporting one end of a valance board pivotally mounted on said unit at said axis adjacent one edge of said unit and adapted to be swung into a plane coinciding with said axis to afford clearance for installing said head rail in position on said head rail supporting means.

2. A single bracket for supporting either end of a Venetian blind, comprising a hanger unit symmetrically contoured at opposite sides respectively of a median horizontal axis thereof and adapted for inversion by rotation about said axis for right-and-left pairing with a second of said brackets, a head rail supporting unit interchangeably carried by said hanger unit, said hanger unit comprising a body plate having channels spaced equidistantly from and paralleling said axis at opposite sides respectively thereof, said head rail supporting unit comprising a plate having parallel edges adapted to fit into said channels respectively for mounting said head rail supporting unit in said hanger unit.

3. A single bracket for supporting either end of a Venetian blind, comprising a hanger unit symmetrically contoured at opposite sides respectively of a median horizontal axis thereof and adapted for inversion by rotation about said axis for right-and-left pairing with a second of said brackets, a head rail supporting unit interchangeably carried by said hanger unit, said hanger unit comprising a body plate having channels spaced equidistantly from and paralleling said axis at opposite sides respectively thereof, said head rail supporting unit comprising a plate having parallel edges adapted to fit into said channels respectively for mounting said head rail supporting unit in said hanger unit, and a horizontal flange on the plate of said head rail supporting unit disposed in unequally spaced relation to said edges to lie in vertically spaced relation to said axis.

4. A single bracket for supporting either end of a Venetian blind, comprising a hanger unit symmetrically contoured at opposite sides respectively of a median horizontal axis thereof and adapted for inversion by rotation about said axis for right-and-left pairing with a second of said brackets, a head rail supporting unit interchangeably carried by said hanger unit, said hanger unit comprising a body plate having channels spaced equidistantly from and paralleling said axis at opposite sides respectively thereof, said head rail supporting unit comprising a plate having parallel edges adapted to fit into said channels respectively for mounting said head rail supporting unit in said hanger unit, a horizontal flange on the plate of said head rail supporting unit disposed in unequally spaced relation to said edges to lie in vertically spaced relation to said axis, and a valance board supporting lever pivotally mounted on said hanger unit plate adjacent one edge thereof on said axis and adapted to be swung into a plane coinciding with

said axis to afford clearance for installing said head rail.

5. A single bracket for supporting either end of a Venetian blind, comprising a hanger unit symmetrically contoured at opposite sides respectively of a median horizontal axis thereof and adapted for inversion by rotation about said axis for right-and-left pairing with a second of said brackets, said unit comprising a body plate, a right-angle flange along a rear vertical edge of said plate, a parallel offset marginal strip along its vertical front edge, inturned flanges forming channels along its opposite horizontal edges respectively and extending substantially from in front of said rear edge flange to the rear of said front edge offset strip, and means interchangeably applicable to said unit at either side of said axis for supporting one end of a Venetian blind head rail in vertically spaced relation to said axis.

6. A single bracket for supporting either end of a Venetian blind, comprising a hanger unit symmetrically contoured at opposite sides respectively of a median horizontal axis thereof and adapted for inversion by rotation about said axis for right-and-left pairing with a second of said brackets, said unit comprising a body plate, a right-angle flange along a rear vertical edge of said plate, a parallel offset marginal strip along its vertical front edge, inturned flanges forming channels along its opposite horizontal edges respectively and extending substantially from in front of said rear edge flange to the rear of said front edge offset strip, a valance board supporting lever pivotally mounted on said offset marginal strip on said axis, and means interchangeably applicable to said unit at either side of said axis for supporting one end of a Venetian blind head rail in vertically spaced relation to said axis.

7. A single bracket for supporting either end of a Venetian blind, comprising a hanger unit symmetrically contoured at opposite sides respectively of a median horizontal axis thereof and adapted for inversion by rotation about said axis for right-and-left pairing with a second of said brackets, said unit comprising a body plate, a right-angle flange along a rear vertical edge of said plate, a parallel offset marginal strip along its vertical front edge, inturned flanges forming channels

along its opposite horizontal edges respectively and extending substantially from in front of said rear edge flange to the rear of said front edge offset strip, a head rail supporting unit comprising a plate having opposite parallel horizontal edges adapted to fit into said channels, and a perpendicular flange unequally spaced from and lying parallel to said edges for supporting a Venetian blind head rail in vertically spaced relation to said axis.

8. A single bracket for supporting either end of a Venetian blind, comprising a hanger unit symmetrically contoured at opposite sides respectively of a median horizontal axis thereof and adapted for inversion by rotation about said axis for right-and-left pairing with a second of said brackets, said unit comprising a body plate, a right-angle flange along a rear vertical edge of said plate, a parallel offset marginal strip along its vertical front edge, inturned flanges forming channels along its opposite horizontal edges respectively and extending substantially from in front of said rear edge flange to the rear of said front edge offset strip, a head rail supporting unit comprising a plate having opposite parallel horizontal edges adapted to fit into said channels, and a perpendicular flange unequally spaced from and lying parallel to said edges for supporting a Venetian blind head rail in vertically spaced relation to said axis, said hanger unit plate having a series of holes in a vertical line adjacent said rear flange, and said head rail supporting unit plate having a corresponding series of holes adjacent each of its opposite edges either of which may register with the holes in said hanger unit plate for the purpose specified.

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