June 22, 1948. R. L. JACOBS 2,443,859

WASHING AND DRYING RACK FOR VENETIAN BLINDS

Filed Sept. 30, 1947 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

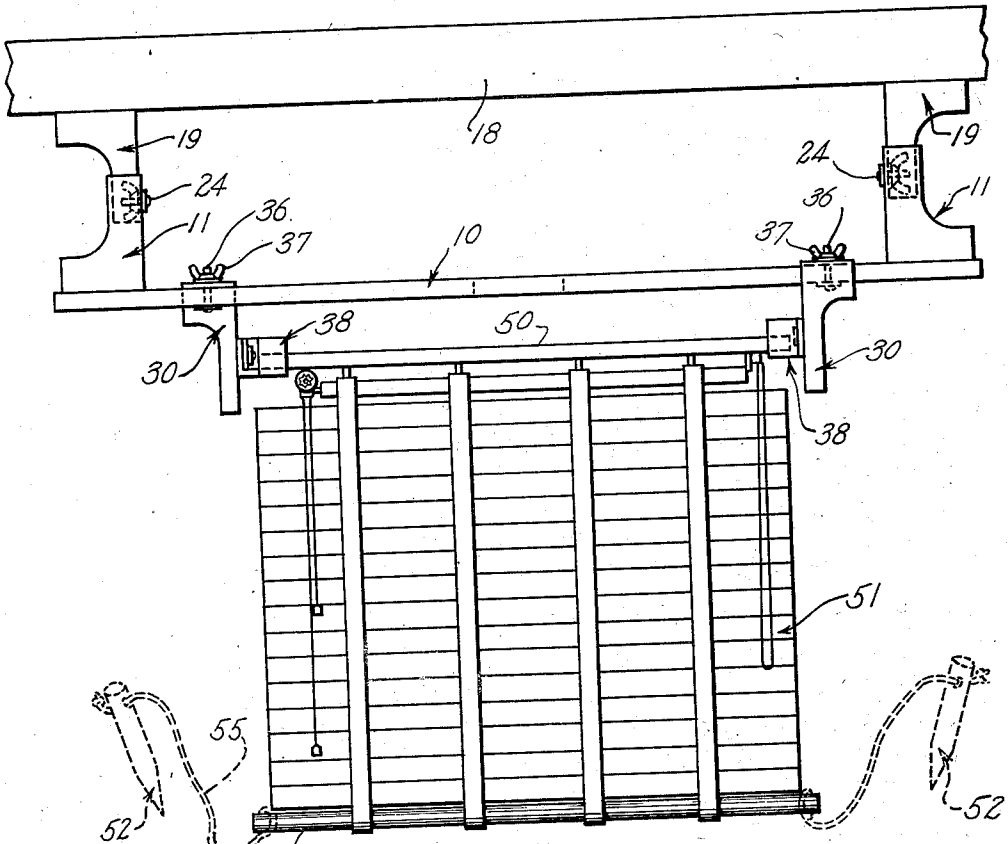


Fig. 1

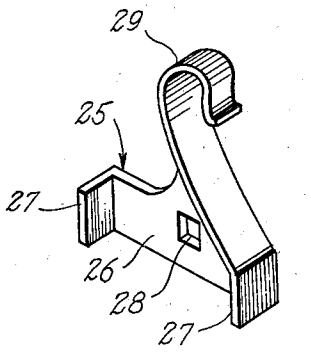


Fig. 5

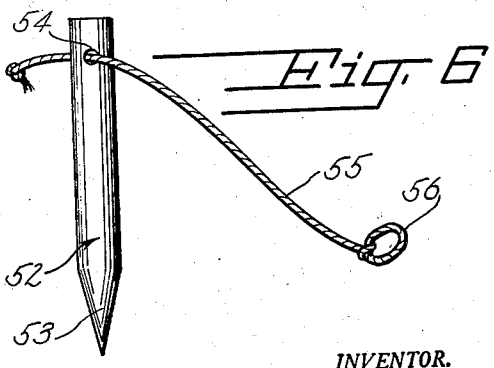


Fig. 6

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WASHING AND DRYING RACK FOR VENETIAN BLINDS

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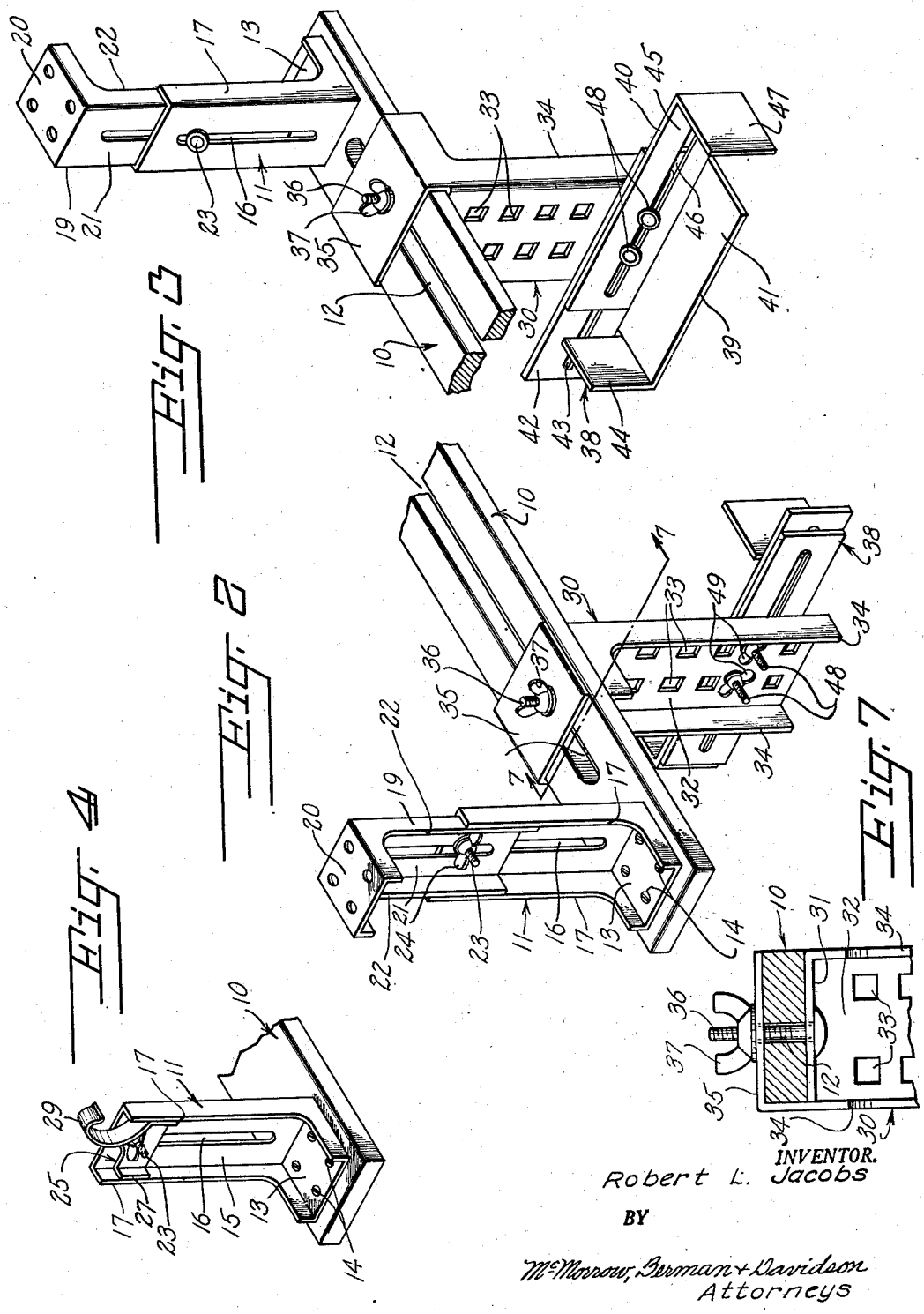


Fig. 3

Fig. 2

Fig. 4

Fig. 7

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WASHING AND DRYING RACK FOR VENETIAN BLINDS

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9 Claims. (Cl. 248—251)

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This invention relates to a rack for supporting Venetian blinds, window shades, and similar objects while they are being painted, washed, dried or re-strung. The rack may be supported on an overhead joist or on a clothesline, and is adjustable, portable, detachable, and collapsible.

A preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, but it is understood that modifications may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention as hereinafter claimed.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the new and improved rack, with a Venetian blind hung thereon;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of one side of the rack;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the other and complementary side of the rack;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of a portion of the rack showing an attached element for suspending the rack from a clothesline;

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the element for suspending the rack from a clothesline;

Figure 6 is a front elevation of a ground anchor that may be used to keep the Venetian blind from swaying; and

Figure 7 is a transverse cross-section on the line 7—7 of Figure 2.

With continued reference to the drawings, an elongated rail, generally indicated at 10, which is preferably of generally rectangular cross-section has attached to the opposite end portions thereof respective bracket parts 11.

While the rail 10 may be provided of different materials and in different sizes, it has been found convenient to use a wooden rail approximately eight feet long, two-and-a-half inches wide, and seven-eighths of an inch thick, this rail being provided with a pair of longitudinal slots 12 in the opposite end portions thereof which slots are substantially in alignment with each other, are substantially equally spaced from the longitudinal center of the rail and terminate short of the end portions of the rail to which the bracket parts 11 are secured.

Each of the bracket parts 11 is conveniently provided as a one-piece member of channel-shaped cross-section having a closed end 13 apertured to receive fastening elements 14, such as screws or rivets, by means of which the bracket part is secured to the corresponding end portion of the rail 10, a web portion 15 having a longitudinal slot 16 therein and flanges 17 along the corresponding edges of the web and closed end 13, the flanges being directed toward the adjacent end of the rail 10.

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The rail 10 may be suspended from any suitable overhead supporting structure such as the joists 18 of a basement ceiling, or from rings secured in a ceiling structure, or from a suitable stretched strand such as a clothesline, wire, or cable.

Where the rail is suspended from a solid overhead structure of a generally permanent character, such as one or more joists 18, the bracket parts 11 are adjustably secured to complementary bracket parts 19 to provide adjustable supporting brackets disposed one at each end of the rail. The complementary bracket parts 19 are similar in shape to the bracket parts 11, each comprising a member of channel-shaped cross-section having a closed end 20 apertured to receive suitable fastening elements such as nails or screws, by means of which the complementary bracket parts are rigidly secured to a suitable overhead structure and having a longitudinally-slotted web portion 21 and flanges 22 along the corresponding edges of the web portion and the closed end 20. The complementary bracket parts 19 are so dimensioned that the flanges thereof are slidably received between the flanges of the corresponding bracket parts 11 so that the bracket parts 11 and the complementary bracket parts 19 may be telescopically associated with the slots in the respective web portions thereof in registry.

Each complementary bracket part 19 is releasably secured in adjusted position relative to its associated bracket part 11 by means of a suitable fastener which may conveniently comprise a bolt 23 having a square shoulder received in the slots of the bracket part web portions and a wing nut 24 threaded onto the bolt. Preferably a suitable washer is disposed between the head of the bolt and the adjacent surface of the web portion of the bracket part 11 and a similar washer is disposed between the wing nut 24 and the adjacent surface of the web portion of the complementary bracket part 19.

When it is desired to suspend the rack from rings or from a suitable strand, ring or strand-engaging hooks, as generally indicated at 25, and particularly illustrated in Figures 4 and 5, are substituted for the complementary bracket parts 19. Each of the hooks 25 includes a generally rectangular base portion 26 having end flanges 27 spaced apart a distance such that they are slidably received between the flanges 17 of the associated bracket parts 11 and provided with a square aperture 28 for the fastening bolt 23. A

re-curved hook portion 29 extends upwardly from the intermediate portion of the base 26 to engage a supporting ring or strand, the shank of the hook portion being provided as a continuation of one of the end flanges as clearly illustrated in Figure 5, so that the hook portion is substantially parallel to the end flanges 27. The upper bracket parts 19 and hooks 25 are thus equivalent rail-supporting elements.

The rail 10 may thus be supported from a permanent overhead structure such as the joists of a basement ceiling, and when so supported, is adjustable in height, by relative movement of the associated bracket parts 11 and 21, or may be supported at a convenient height from a line or cable or suitable supporting rings.

A pair of hangers, generally indicated at 30, depend from the respective opposite end portions of the rail 10 and are adjustably movable lengthwise of the rail. Each of these hangers is a member of channel-shaped cross-section having an apertured closed end 31, a web portion 32 disposed substantially at right angles to the closed end and provided with series of spaced-apart apertures, two series of apertures 33 being illustrated to provide spaced-apart pairs of apertures with the two apertures in each pair in alignment transversely of the web portion 32, the apertures preferably being square to receive the square shoulders of a pair of carriage bolts which will be later described. Flanges 34 extend along the corresponding edges of the closed end 31 and web 32 to reinforce the structure and the flange at one side of the closed end 31 is extended upwardly and then perpendicularly to provide a top plate 35 overlying and substantially parallel to the closed end 31 and spaced from the closed end 31 a distance substantially equal to the thickness of the rail 10, as is clearly illustrated in Figure 7. A carriage bolt 36 extends through the closed end 31 of the hanger and the top plate 35 and through the slot 12 in the rail 10, preferably having its head disposed below the closed end 31 and a wing nut 37 threaded thereon and bearing upon the top plate 35. Suitable washers are preferably interposed between the bolt head and the closed end 31 and between the wing nut 37 and the top plate 35 and the aperture in the closed end 31 is preferably made square or non-circular to receive the non-circular shoulder of the bolt 36 to restrain the bolt against rotation relative to the hanger and rail. By loosening the corresponding wing nut 37 the hangers may be moved along the rail to any position of adjustment within the longitudinal limits of slot 12 and may be clamped in adjusted position by tightening the wing nut 37.

A pair of seats, generally indicated at 38, are supported on the hangers 30 at the inner side of the hangers by means providing for the adjustable positioning of the seats lengthwise of the hangers and for adjustment of the seats, themselves, to securely clamp the top or supporting member of a Venetian blind or similar structure therein.

Each of the seats comprises two operatively associated members 39 and 40. The member 39, as is clearly illustrated in Figure 3, comprises a substantially horizontal base portion 41 of elongated rectangular shape, a side 42 extending along one longitudinal edge of the base and provided with a longitudinal slot 43 therein and an end 44 at one end of the base 41 disposed substantially at right angles to both the base 41 and the side 42. The member 40 comprises a side 45 having a longitudinal slot 46 therein and having at one end an end portion 47 disposed substantially at right angles thereto. When the members 39 and 40 are in assembled relationship, as illustrated in Figure 3, the sides 42 and 45 are superimposed with the slots 43 and 46 in registry with each other and the two ends 38 and 47 are substantially parallel and opposed to each other at opposite ends of the seats.

A pair of bolts 48 extend through the registering slots 43 and 46 in the seat members 39 and 40 and through corresponding apertures 33 in the corresponding hanger 30. The heads of the bolts are preferably disposed within the seats and wing nuts 49 are threaded onto the ends of the bolts projecting from the side of the hanger remote from the seats and suitable washers are interposed between the bolt heads and the side 45 of member 40 and between the wing nuts and the adjacent surface of the web 32 of the hanger.

The two bolts 48 may be disposed in any horizontally aligned pair of apertures 33 to position the seat 38 at the desired elevation. Also with the wing nuts 49 loosened the seat members 39 and 40 may be moved relative to each other to move the ends 44 and 47 together or apart and after the ends are properly spaced the wing nuts may be tightened to hold the seat member ends in the desired position of adjustment relative to each other.

In using the device, with the rail 10 suspended from a solid overhead structure by the bracket parts 11 and 19, or from rings or a strand by the bracket parts 11 and hooks 25, as described above, and with the hangers 30 depending from the rail and the seats 38 secured to the hangers, one end of the top or supporting bar 50 of a Venetian blind, generally indicated at 51 in Figure 1, is placed upon the base 41 of one of the seats 38. With the wing nuts 49 loosened, the seat members are adjusted until the seat ends 44 and 47 firmly contact the opposite sides of the end portion of the bar 50. With the corresponding wing nut 37 loosened the opposite hanger 30 is then moved longitudinally of the rail 10 until the base 41 of the corresponding seat is disposed beneath the opposite end portion of the bar 50 and, with the corresponding wing nut 49 loosened the seat members are adjusted until the corresponding seat ends 44 and 47 firmly engage the side of this end portion of the bar 50. The wing nuts 37 and 49 are then tightened and the supporting bar 50 of the Venetian blind will be firmly secured at its ends in the seat 38 and the blind will be supported for washing, drying, or repair. As explained above, the adjustably associated bracket parts 11 and 19 may be moved relative to each other to adjust the vertical height of the rail 10 and the seats 38 may be raised or lowered relative to the hanger 30 to further adjust the vertical height of the seat to condition the rack to various operating conditions including the elevation of the overhead supporting structure the length of the blind to be supported and the height of the operator, an optimum adjustment being obtainable for these various conditions by the adjustable features hereinabove described. The rack is also adjustable for blinds of different widths so that Venetian blinds of substantially any conventional width may be operatively supported thereby.

The rack may be used indoors or out-of-doors as may be desired, the outdoor use being especially facilitated by the provision of the hooks 25 whereby the rack can be supported from a

clothesline or an equivalent supporting structure.

When Venetian blinds are supported by the rack out-of-doors the wind may have a tendency to sway or swing the blinds to an undesirable extent. This tendency is overcome by the provision of suitable anchoring means, particularly illustrated in Figure 6, and disclosed in operative position in broken lines in Figure 1.

Such anchoring means may conveniently comprise a pair of pegs, generally indicated at **52**, having pointed ends **53** and transverse apertures **54** through the opposite end portions thereof, and corresponding cords **55** threaded respectively through the apertures **54** and each having at one end thereof a loop **56** engageable with the lowermost bar **57** of the blind. The pegs **52** may be driven into the ground adjacent the ends of the lower bar **57** of the blind, the cord loops **56** engaged with the adjacent ends of the lower bar **57** and the cords then pulled through the apertures **54** until they are in a taut condition and appropriately knotted to prevent them from running back through the respective apertures.

As stated above, the rail **10** is preferably provided as an elongated member of wood or some similar light-weight material. The bracket parts **11** and **19**, the hangers **30**, and the members of the seat **38** are preferably formed of metal of a non-corrosive nature or are suitably plated to prevent corrosion thereof. While these members may be formed of sheet metal, if desired, they are preferably formed as castings and it has been found that aluminum castings provide entirely satisfactory brackets, hangers, and seat members for the purposes described.

What is claimed is:

1. A device of the character described, comprising a pair of vertically-adjustable brackets, a horizontal rail secured to the brackets, and a pair of hangers horizontally adjustable on the rail, said hangers being adapted to support a Venetian blind or similar article.

2. A device of the character described, comprising a pair of vertically-telescoping brackets, a horizontal rail secured to the bottoms of the brackets, a pair of hangers extending from the rail, means for moving the hangers along the rail, and means for vertically adjusting the hangers with respect to the rail, said hangers being adapted to support a Venetian blind.

3. A device of the character described, comprising a pair of brackets, each bracket including an upper flanged part attachable to a support and a lower flanged part telescopically adjustable with respect to the upper part, a horizontal rail secured to the lower bracket parts, a pair of hangers horizontally movable along the rail, and a seat vertically and transversely adjustable on each hanger, said seats being adapted to hold the ends of a top bar of a Venetian blind.

4. A rack for supporting Venetian blinds and similar devices for washing, drying or repair thereof, comprising a pair of adjustable two-part brackets, the upper parts of which are adapted to be rigidly secured to a permanent overhead structure, an elongated, longitudinally slotted rail attached at its ends to the lower parts of said brackets, a pair of hangers depending from and attached to said rail for movement longitudinally thereof, and a pair of adjustable seats secured one to the inner side of each hanger.

5. A rack for supporting Venetian blinds and similar devices for washing, drying or repair thereof, comprising a pair of bracket parts, a pair of elements adjustably secured one to each bracket part and connectable to a supporting structure to suspend said bracket parts therefrom, an elongated, longitudinally slotted rail secured at its opposite ends respectively to said bracket parts, a pair of hangers suspended from said rail, means including adjustable elements extending through said slotted rail securing said hangers to said rail whereby said hangers can be moved to different positions of adjustment longitudinally of said rail, and a pair of adjustable seats secured one to the inner side of each hanger.

6. A rack for supporting Venetian blinds and similar devices for washing, drying or repair thereof, comprising a pair of bracket parts, a pair of elements adjustably secured one to each bracket part and connectable to a supporting structure to suspend said bracket parts therefrom, an elongated, longitudinally slotted rail secured at its opposite ends respectively to said bracket parts, a pair of hangers suspended from said rail, means including adjustable elements extending through said slotted rail securing said hangers to said rail whereby said hangers can be moved to different positions of adjustment longitudinally of said rail, and a pair of adjustable seats secured one to the inner side of each hanger, each of said hangers comprising a member of channel-shaped cross-section having in the web portion thereof at least one series of apertures in which said apertures are spaced respectively different distances from said rail and each adjustable seat comprises a first member including an elongated base, a side extending along one longitudinal edge of said base, disposed substantially at right angles to said base and having a longitudinal slot therein, and an end at one end of said base disposed substantially at right angles to said base and said side, and a second member including a side having a longitudinal slot therein and an end at one end of said side and disposed substantially at right angles thereto, said first and second members having their sides overlapped and overlying the inner side of the respective hanger web, and a screw fastener extending through said hanger web and the sides of said seat members securing said seat members in adjusted position on said hanger and relative to each other.

7. A rack for supporting Venetian blinds and similar devices for washing, drying, or repair thereof, comprising a pair of bracket parts, a pair of elements adjustably secured one to each bracket part and connectable to a supporting structure to suspend said bracket parts therefrom, an elongated, longitudinal slotted rail secured at its opposite ends respectively to said bracket parts, a pair of hangers suspended from said rail, means including adjustable elements extending through said slotted rail securing said hangers to said rail whereby said hangers can be moved to different positions of adjustment longitudinally of said rail, and a pair of adjustable seats secured one to the inner side of each hanger, each of said bracket parts comprising a member of channel-shaped cross-section having a closed end apertured to receive fasteners securing said bracket part to said rail and a longitudinally-slotted web portion disposed substantially at right angles to said closed end, and each of said rack-suspending elements comprising a bracket part of channel-shaped cross-section complementary to and telescopically associated with said first-mentioned bracket part, each of said complementary bracket parts having a closed

end apertured to receive fasteners for securing said complementary bracket parts to an overhead structure, and a longtudinally-slotted web portion disposed substantially at right angles to said closed end, and a screw fastener extending through the slots in said web portions to secure said bracket parts in adjusted position relative to each other.

8. A rack for supporting Venetian blinds and similar devices for washing, drying or repair thereof, comprising a pair of bracket parts, a pair of elements adjustably secured one to each bracket part and connectable to a supporting structure to suspend said bracket parts therefrom, an elongated, longitudinally slotted rail secured at its opposite ends respectively to said bracket parts, a pair of hangers suspended from said rail, means including adjustable elements extending through said slotted rail securing said hangers to said rail whereby said hangers can be moved to different positions of adjustment longitudinally of said rail, and a pair of adjustable seats secured one to the inner side of each hanger, each of said bracket parts comprising a member of channel-shaped cross-section having a closed end apertured to receive fasteners securing said bracket part to said rail and a longitudinally-slotted web portion disposed substantially at right angles to said closed end, and each of said rack-suspending elements comprising a hook having

an apertured base portion provided with end flanges and a re-curved hook portion extending from the intermediate part of said base portion to engage a supporting ring or strand, and a fastening element extending through said hook base portion and the slotted web of said bracket part to secure said hook to said bracket part.

9. A rack for supporting Venetian blinds and similar devices for washing, drying or repair thereof, comprising a pair of bracket parts, a pair of elements adjustably secured one to each bracket part and connectable to a supporting structure to suspend said bracket parts therefrom, an elongated, longitudinally slotted rail secured at its opposite ends respectively to said bracket parts, a pair of hangers suspended from said rail, means including adjustable elements extending through said slotted rail securing said hangers to said rail whereby said hangers can be moved to different positions of adjustment longitudinally of said rail, and a pair of adjustable seats secured one to the inner side of each hanger, said rail comprising an elongated member of generally rectangular cross-section having a pair of longitudinal slots therethrough disposed substantially in alignment with each other and substantially equally spaced from the longitudinal center of said rail.

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